

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

AUDIO CASSETTE: #113A,B,C (Tapes 1,2,3)

VIDEO CASSETTE:

INTERVIEW DATE: January 27, 1992 & February 5, 1992

INTERVIEWEES: Henry Fred Gerdtz & Hazel Vivian Gerdtz

SUBJECT: Family background, life in San Jose, farming,  
bottling works

INTERVIEWER: Igor Ouimett, SJHM Volunteer

TRANSCRIBER: Evelyn K. Cannon, SJHM Volunteer

This is an interview taking place January 27, 1992, the time is approximately 7:30 in the evening and my name is Igor Ouimett and I'm interviewing for the San Jose Historical Museum Oral History Program and I'm interviewing a Mr. Henry Gerdtz who is a lifetime resident of San Jose area.

HFG = Henry Fred Gerdtz

HVG = Hazel Vivian Gerdtz

IO = Igor Ouimett

IO So, what do you want to talk about?

HFG Well, I was born in San Jose and my father at that time had a bottling works and when the mines, which he called the Hacienda Mines and they all call that today The New Almaden Mines, and he had a route that went out to the Almaden Mines and which was their 21 Saloon. So when the mine quit, it wasn't like today that somebody would have money to take it over with; it quit and everybody went home. So then he tried to collect some money and he had

the route up Saratoga to Long Barn.

IO           Where was Long Barn?

HFG           Long Barn was on the way to Big Basin. In those days you had a Delmar Park and Luna Park and Churchin Park and Hacienda Park in the vicinity of San Jose where they had their carnivals, their rodeos and so forth. How am I doing?

IO           Great, keep going.

HFG           And then we went one year out on the Berryessa Road, which belonged \_\_\_\_\_ doctor, which is now where your big flea market is on Berryessa Road, run by George Bumb. And then we moved out to Evergreen and where the east side buildings, what do you call them? east side, the big shopping center.

IO           Eastridge?

HFG           Eastridge and he rented 450 acres, which went from Tully Road to White Road, and now Tully Road is changed and Tully Road goes straight to White Road and it used to go around Eastridge and it's called Quimby Road. So that's where I had my first interest in orchards and cows and

pigs and we were there until 1915, and in 1912 he bought 27 acres on the San Felipe Road but did not move up there until 1915 when they had the big exposition in San Francisco, 1915 Exposition, and we rode up there on a truck -- it just had boards across and hard rubber tires -- and saw the exposition and the fair. And then when we moved in 1915 up to San Felipe Road, which is a mile and a half from where I live now, and I had a bad accident on a bicycle. My folks built a house in 1917 which is still standing and a boy neighbor of mine and I went up the San Felipe Road and on the way down his foot got in the front wheel and I went 12 feet up in the air, which they tell me, and I kinda went out and a car almost hit me and hit my head and so I finally got home but I didn't tell anybody and the next day I was reading a magazine on a cart and I couldn't get out of it when a neighbor came and wanted to know how I was, and I had a broken kidney. And in those days all it was, a good old strong mustard plaster and it took me oh about nine months before I could do most anything so I picked prunes with a pillow. And other people didn't like to pick prunes or somethin' but somehow I was just 13 years old in 1917 (counting to himself) 11 years old and....

IO            You say you picked prunes with a pillow. What does that mean?

HFG        The pillow was drug around and my knees went on the pillow.

IO         Okay, go ahead.

HFG        And then when I got over the deal, which I have never had any kidney trouble -- shall I go into high school or shall I keep on?

IO         Go, keep on.

HFG        So when I was approximately 14 years old, my brother had a bad case of athletics foot and my mother and him went to Pacific Grove and in that time I worked on a hay \_\_\_\_\_, picked apricots and worked on a hay \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_. And it seemed to me like it didn't bother me or anything about how much I was gonna get or what I was gonna do and I hoed peas and corn for the Portuguese in the hills and whatever they'd give me, and if I was someplace where I was boarding with them they paid me a dollar a day and room and board or "found" which we called it. And this is my grammar school deal and I had a bicycle and drove the bicycle four miles to school, which then we had no pavement and no buses, and my first two years I either had to buy my books or get 'em from somebody who had 'em the year before. Then when I'm

going to high school, in my first year we bought a Model T secondhand, which wasn't too good, but we had all kinds of passengers. We had six passengers so that next year we bought a brand new one in 1921, \$428.00. It seemed like I had more money than my brother, I don't know why, because I wasn't a spendthrift but I always had a good time. And in our four years when we went to high school well I tried to get into athletics but our neighbor's boys \_\_\_\_\_ in football, \_\_\_\_\_ and so that ended that. My brother he was strictly on gettin' there on time and gettin' the children home on time. Whereas my wife now loved the last two years with me and the Model T.

And then after the Model T that I had the experience in carpentry and I worked for a San Francisco contractor who previously had just made big doors so the house that I helped him build we didn't have \_\_\_\_\_. I had to dig out the form, build the form, and he had a big two-wheeled cement mixer and it was too much for me because I only weighed 99 pounds when I graduated from grammar school and at that time I weighed about 138. And it was one of the first gasoline cement mixers I'd seen so I built a platform all the way around and set this cement mixer up there and he had given me lug pails and six lug pails was -- the gravel at that time wasn't mixed, you

had \_\_\_\_\_ and sand and pea gravel; well it wasn't pea gravel then, it was just some \_\_\_\_\_ to it. And so I made this cement and poured it. I didn't have any help and every time he'd drop his pencil or something he'd want me to do it, pick his pencil up. So even when we were part way through in the vat -- I had thrown a couple of 4x4's down there and he said, "What'd you do that for?" and I said, "For an opening." He says, "I'll attend to that." And he didn't tend to it and there I was afterwards with the owner chopping a hole to get into the basement or under the house. And did all the shingling on the house by myself and I tried to have a plane and plane all the ends of the 2x4's or your rafters, but he wanted me to do something else. So I had to get up there and bust all my knuckles when the house was up there and plane the ends of the 2x4's because everything was sized two sides and it was rough when you got it. And I even did under the \_\_\_\_\_ lath, everything but the doors and I was the only laborer. He had a big hatchet and he almost threw it at me one day. That's all that was on the house was him and I and then of course the plasterers came in and the finisher and the painter.

IO

Is this house still around somewhere?

HFG        Yessir.

IO        Where is it?

HFG        On Quimby Road. The man who we built the house for was Mr. Schnudhouse; he was a San Francisco man. You gonna ask me how to spell the name? S-c-h-n-u-d-h-o-u-s-e, right? No, she's shakin' her head. Come in here and tell us how to spell it then. (Laughter) It's h-a-u-s-e.

HVG        No it's not. No e on the end.

HFG        No e on the end, all right. Now you gotta help me out a little bit. How long do I hafta go? Keep a going huh?

IO        Just keep going. When did you meet your wife?

HFG        I met my wife when I went back and forth with this Model T Ford that we had and she was a passenger. But I did not go with her because I had another girl in San Jose, but my brother was goin' with her sister so she was home by herself and I'd come by and pick her up as a sister; I had no sisters, I just had one brother. And I'd take her and I'd go to San Jose and pick up my girlfriend and come back to Evergreen or Berryessa or Franklin to the dances and that went on for two years. So I finally

thought well pickin' a girl up on the way goin' and the last girl that I'd leave (chuckle) I might as well go with this girl. And her mother and her used to go with a \_\_\_\_\_ and if it rained that old Studebaker was slipper than a goose and then if they'd go any place I'd have to milk the cow and finally I got over the bashfulness and then I asked her after seven years, I asked her to marry me. She was 15 when we started and she was 22 when we got married. But I left the trip out in 1923. In 1923 we had picked apricots and we had \$90.00 but we decided to go -- well, it was more my brother -- decided to go to Saskatchewan and meet, well actually it would be my mother's cousin. And he had homesteaded in 1911 in Treedhome, Saskatchewan. And so my mother bought us, well oversized tires \_\_\_\_\_ and brand new ones and when we got to Portland we had to buy a tire because the tires didn't last very long; we didn't have pavements, the only pavements we had was about five blocks of Portland. But at that time when you went into another state you had to get a visa and well we got our visa.

IO           When you say state you mean like Oregon?

HFG          Yeah, like Oregon.



IO           From California to Oregon you had to have a visa?

HFG           Oregon and Washington. And so they said they were gonna close up because the President was makin' a speech at the railroad tracks and it was President Harding. And so when we went past the railroad tracks, he asked me if I wanted to see him and I says, "He doesn't look any different than anybody else and I don't think he was made any different than anybody else" and so we went on. So when we were in Idaho -- we used to follow the railroad tracks 'cause that's where the roads went in those days, they followed the railroad tracks and the street. And so we were sleepin' at Pocatello, Idaho, and the man who was running the station, the railroad station, came by and he says, "I'm gonna tell you something that nobody in the United States knows", and he was on the ticket \_\_\_\_\_. And he says, "President Harding has passed away and the message is just comin' over and I'm sending it from here to Washington", and that was a private thing. And then when we got to Yellowstone -- well the outhouses at Yellowstone just had a 2x4 nailed from one wall to the other and I says, "That's how President Harding passed away." (Laughter) Maybe I shouldn't put that in there. So we stayed there a week or more at my mother's cousin's and part cousin's of the family and then Salt Lake City and Nevada and in Nevada, Lovelocks, Nevada, we went

broke. And my mother when she came over she came Nevada and Genoa and Gardnerville and there was no Minden so a man by the name of Donburger owned half of Nevada said, "Give me a railroad and I'll give you land for a town" and so they built Minden, Minden, Nevada, so when we went broke in Lovelocks they wouldn't leave us leave there that night because there was a desert between Lovelocks and \_\_\_\_\_ and all we had left was 50 cents because we had bought two tires, Barney Oldfield Tires, and there was two bits apiece for our meal and when we got to Gardnerville my brother and I thought well it's gettin' close to school time and we asked \_\_\_\_\_ but they were short of help and he was gonna go to Carson City and get some help and so I volunteered to be a teamster and drive a couple horses and my brother would help put the hay on the wagon they'd need; we stayed there two weeks and helped them harvest the crop and have a good time. It's sure changed from then till now. Well, there was a swimming pool there that one part was the Indians' and the other part was ours and some nights it would get kinda late and we'd get there and they'd be in ours so we had to chase the Indians out of our pool and then we'd have our swim, in a mudhole. And then there was a real good swimming place \_\_\_\_\_ which is now, gee I can't remember the name but it's a beautiful joint, it has rooms outside of it and when we

went there one night they wouldn't let us go swimming because it was too hot, the weather hadn't cooled off yet and it was coming out as a geyser.

IO           When you were growing up in the Evergreen area, did you have swimming pools or anything like that?

HFG          Yeah, I had a little one in the creek there which wasn't much over a foot and a half or two feet and about eight feet long, and a roof had gone over and then water had gone over the roof and that made the swimming hole. Yeah, that's better when you ask me questions (laughter) because I'm missin' a lot of stuff (laughter again).

IO           When you were a kid but before you started grammar school or elementary school, did you help your father around the house or your mother?

HFG          That's right and the big thing was to get the ashes out of the house and the wood back in for the next day and after school -- I'm goin' a little further now -- then we had to saw the wood or chop it and it was mostly willow and oak and sycamore and all we had was the cookstove and a kerosene heater. When they built the house in 1917, there wasn't any electricity so he put streetcar windows on our back porch, which streetcar windows are the

windows disappear, lift up the lock and the window goes down and lift up the screen. It was very elaborate for those days.

IO Did they have streetcars then?

HFG Yeah, they had streetcars and that's what they called the streetcar windows.

IO Your house didn't have electricity but there was electricity around?

HFG No, they didn't get electricity up to my folks house until 1933, no. Let's see am I a little further now. But anyway, after I worked, took contract \_\_\_\_\_, and then in 1927 was when I rented my first orchard and before that I worked at that store first when I was goin' to school and then afterwards for a year and I had to get there at 6:30 in the morning so the bakery could bring the goods and all the goods was Keystone \_\_\_\_\_ job.

IO Do you remember the name of the bakery?

HFG Louie's Bakery, L-o-u-i-s, and it was on -- what the heck was the name?

IO Coleman Avenue?

HFG No no, this was before they moved out there. They were on, where the packing houses were (long pause).

IO Well let me ask you another question. When World War I came about, you were like 11 or 12 years old in 1915-16 somewhere in there.

HFG Yeah, see 1918 was when the big push was.

IO Do you have any recollection of activities around here to support the war or anything like that?

HFG Yeah, I knew the older boys like the Welly boys and the Bean boys and different ones but the only thing I knew was that you shouldn't talk down, you was a Hun. Anyway, they didn't bother us and in 1918 when the big pull was, my father went to town and he got a couple of saws and a couple of axes and we went in the creek and chopped wood and no neighbors came. But ours was the place where all the boys came because there wasn't a girl in the neighborhood. The Bradfords had two boys, Coats had one boy, Lehdy had seven boys, Nestor had one boy and then when we got down to one house or two houses below \_\_\_\_\_ and then there was \_\_\_\_\_ and there was

three girls and three boys. But in our neighborhood there were no girls 'cause that was a stretch of, what would you say, about eight miles one way and 10 miles the other way and that was the only houses there were then.

IO Well, that was before you moved to the area that you're in today?

HFG No, that's when I was in the area, when my folks were in the area. See, my folks were a mile and a half above here.

IO Well I thought you said somewhere earlier that your wife lived next door or ....

HFG She lived a mile and a quarter from me.

IO Oh okay, it wasn't like next door, okay.

HFG No no, when we bought this, Hazel and I bought this in 1934 but did not move here until 1936, this house and ranch, 40 acres or 39 and 18/100.

IO This was not the house that your father built?

HFG Heck no. This house was built the same time as I was

born because they have \_\_\_\_\_ line in the creek out here in 1906 and that was in April and I was born on April 16, 1906. See how you help me out.

IO           That's good I guess.

HFG          There's too much in my life and I have a good life.

IO           I believe it. Let me look at this piece of paper here.  
(pause) Okay.

HFG          See, I'm kind of skippin' around.

IO           That's all right, we'll let somebody else worry about straightening this out.

HFG          Oh, all right. So, we're in World War I.

IO           Do you have any idea what the population was of San Jose?  
Or I guess, was Evergreen still an independent little community at that time?

HFG          Well, it was up till about 1928 but it didn't have a post office anymore. The mail was delivered by horse and then by car but it only went up here in front of her folks.

IO           Now this was like a mile and a half down the road?

HFG           No no, her folks was right next to here, see, but I wasn't livin' here; there was a man by the name of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ but we were livin' a mile and a half above Hazel and in front of Hazel's house was the mail stop, which I didn't know 'em at all at that time when we came here. I was an outsider and I always had a lot of fun. Now World War I is the one that all started over there in '14 but you might as well say it didn't last much over 1918 was the big bump and she was over.

IO           Was food stuffs and things like that rationed during the war, do you recall?

HFG           Sure, Old Man Hoover made us the word "Hooverize" and sent all the wheat and barley and everything over there.

IO           Well Hoover was after the war, wasn't he? Coolidge was President during the war, wasn't he?

HFG           Who?

IO           Calvin Coolidge.

HFG           Yeah, but Hoover was the one who was the Big Shot and



made us Hooverize because I remember the name Hooverize.  
He wasn't President then even, he was well a Big Shot.

IO           Okay, but he wasn't President then.

HFG          No.

IO           I thought he wasn't.   Okay.

HFG          (Comment inaudible)   Right?

IO           Well Roosevelt was elected in 1932.

HFG          Yeah, but the guy who was really during the war was --  
what was his name.

IO           Well, we don't have to worry about that.   Somebody knows  
which guy.   Were there gas stations around?

HFG          Well, there was one gasoline pump there at the grocery  
store there I worked at and there were just pumps around  
and lot of places they were the pumps where you pumped  
the gas.   The gas was the five-gallon gas deal and then  
they opened the valve and the gasoline went into your  
car.

IO           You were talking earlier about making this trip up to Saskatchewan.

HFG          That's right.

IO           It sounded from the way you were talking like you never really got there. Is that true?

HFG          No no. We got there, we were there two weeks and even went across the border and never was bothered, \_\_\_\_\_ from Holland, Montana for my cousin, or I call him my cousin.

IO           Was there gas stations along the road? How did you get gas?

HFG          Well, Standard Oil was the gasoline, I mean that we had or my father had at that time for the automobile. He had a 1913 Baby Grand Chevrolet.

IO           Did you say Baby Grand?

HFG          Yeah, Baby Grand. That's before Chevrolet came in; it was a assembly job, I guess, by General Motors but it had a four-cylinder Buick engine in it and it didn't have a big body and the second gear was absolutely no good, all

you had was low and high. And I pushed it from Glasserville to Echo Summit and we made a little trip and we started out of Evergreen at 5:00 in the morning and we landed in North Sacramento at dark and my mother had the whole kitchen with her and then the next day we went from North Sacramento up which is called 50 Highway now and at that time it was called the Lincoln Highway and we got to Meyers and a few miles beyond Meyers and then it got dark so we built another cookhouse and other people came by and they made a couple of more feet and then they pooped with a Hudson Super Six. And the next morning we were up on top of the Kingsbury Grade.

IO Is this in California, this grade?

HFG Kingsbury Grade, yes. It's in what you call Southside; well it's right on the border of Nevada. And my father says, "We can't go down there", and he hunted up a tree about a hundred feet long and had this chain and ties that behind the car and I said, "Wow, what if that goes under?" And he said, "It can't go under because there's too many chains." So that noon it took us two and a half or you might as well say three days to go from San Jose to Genoa - Gardnerville, Nevada.

IO That was sort of like a brake?

HFG        Yeah, that drug on behind. That was 1915. And going up that canyon before you got to Elko (voice inaudible) before you go into Myra \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. And afterwards in 1919 we had an Elgin and that was never equipped with four wheels.

IO        This was an Elgin automobile?

HFG        That's right. Runs like a clock is what they used to say. It was a six cylinder.

IO        Was this a four-door or two-door or ....?

HFG        Four-door Phaeton.

IO        Okay, the top came down?

HFG        The top came down and the Chevrolet was the same way.

IO        Oh yeah?

HFG        It had a top. Ford didn't have a top, only the Elgin had \_\_\_\_\_ where you could open. They put side curtains on it, you know, and you could open it.

IO        Did these cars have self-starters or did you have to

crank them?

HFG        They both had self-starters. But the tractors we had at that time they were all crankers but the outside crank was you and the inside crank was on the ....

IO         The inside crank was what?

HFG        Was on the backboard. See that's the biggest crank. The one outside would always blow out that tractor when it wouldn't start so he was the cranker, he was the crank.

IO         Got you.

HFG        (Laughter) you got me (laughter). You'll have to ask me about these things that I tell you 'cause I may get you confused. I'm kinda jumpin' around. Now World War II you know about as much about that as I do. I was, you might as well say, in and then when they had the \_\_\_\_\_ I was 19 \_\_\_\_\_ and they said no, no. So then I got my father's place and my father-in-law's place and got my brother's place and I had to work. If I'd a went to war I'd of had a heck of a time. And here I had to work about 15 hours a day harvesting the crop and I had grain, 18 acres of grain and ....

IO           What is the timeframe this is happening now?

HFG          What?

IO           What is the timeframe that this is going on?

HFG          World War II.

IO           World War II, okay. You had a lot of electricity at this time? The houses had electricity?

HFG          Yeah, electricity and then the jars came in, propane, \_\_\_\_\_ all propane but at that time \_\_\_\_\_. They had different names for it, acetyline bottled gas. Well when we got married and had the \_\_\_\_\_, PG&E gave us \$128.00 if we took the -- we had to have an electric pump to pump it \_\_\_\_\_ and an iron and a stove and one of those water heaters that was beside the water tank. Did you ever see those? They were about that big and they had a coil in 'em and they would heat the water and it would go in the old water \_\_\_\_\_ the water tank for your hot water.

IO           That was gas fired?

HFG No.

IO Electric heat.

HFG Electric coil inside of this tank.

IO Okay. PG&E paid you to install this equipment?

HFG Yeah. If we took that much then they'd get paid for the line. See, her folks was at the end of the line and Holland here, so we're sittin' out, him and Mr. Park and Holland got it that far and then University Electric is the one who bid on that, they got \$50.00 .... (Tape stops in mid-sentence.)

(End of Side 1 of Tape 1.)

(Tape 1, Side 2.)

IO We just flip the tape over.

HFG What does that tape close around, a half an hour or how long?

IO (Coughing) This a ninety minute time tape. Are you getting tired?

HFG        No. Do you want a glass of water?

IO        No, do you?

HFG        No.

IO        You don't have to use all the tape or we can use more tape than this or we can continue this or we can have another session.

HFG        Another day.

IO        Yeah, whatever is ....

HFG        'Cause it's gonna take you quite a while to straightening that out or somebody else.

IO        It's gonna be somebody -- well, I got a little bit of playing with it.

HFG        Is this your equipment?

IO        Yes.

HFG        Good. You have down here earthquakes and I've gone through quite a few, and (pause) 1906.



IO           You were sort of born then.

HFG           Yeah, thirty-six hours before so I can't tell you too much about what happened but I heard from my folks and my brother and it seems to me like San Jose didn't get such a shake as San Francisco. Now everybody tells me and all the earthquakes I've been in and this one now we had in '89 it wasn't even on any of these faults was it? It was on a tributary. I've always explained to people, an earthquake if you're sittin' right on top of it you may get a little wiggle but if you ever played snap the whip and you was on the end of that whip, about 16 kids and you was on the end of it \_\_\_\_\_, they snapped you, boy, you got a jolt. And that to me, these scientists can say anything they want but if you're on the end of a tributary that snaps and breaks, you've had it. That's just Henry Gerdt's way of sayin' an earthquake. And we happened to be in South Dakota when the one \_\_\_\_\_ and I remember I never lost any of my father's beer bottles. Maybe you felt them when you was here before.

IO           You said you were in South Dakota?

HFG           That's right. This one was about .... Hazel, what was that one when we were in South Dakota? That earthquake

that shook clotheslines.

(Conversation here between HFG and his wife. Unable to hear what she was saying.)

HFG       What was that, about 10 years ago? Or longer than that.  
Gee, the time just flies.

IO         Well that's okay. The earthquake was not in South  
Dakota.

HFG       It was here and my dishes were there.

IO         Were there? What does that mean?

HFG       On the counter there.

IO         Oh, there was a counter here? (Sound of door or drawer  
closing.)

HFG       Window sill. And most of these all came off of the ledge  
down in this area except one I bought here. This is what  
my father had, the bottling works in San Jose on Fourth  
and Louis Streets.

IO         Boy, this is a heavy bottle. This says "Garden City

Bottling Works, Gerdt's Brothers, San Jose, California."

Is there a date on this area. No.

HFG Yeah, that's the turn of the century.

IO This is a brown bottle.

HFG That's what you call a brown bottle. Some of them are a little darker shade than others.

IO Were these bottles made locally?

HFG Yeah, you see the difference in them. Some are lower than others. Down here, isn't it?

IO It looks the same to me. That's okay. Did they put quarts in these?

HFG They didn't call 'em quarts, they called 'em large bottles and small bottles.

IO But these were beer bottles.

HFG Beer bottles. And this is where he got his beer from, El Dorado Brewery Company, Stockton, California.

IO Well he didn't brew his own beer then?

HFG No, he had a bottling works. You didn't actually hear me say brewery, did you?

IO I probably wasn't paying attention.

HFG And he got his beer on the railroad in these puncheons. Do you know what a puncheon is? 250 gallon barrel.

IO A big wooden barrel.

HFG Yeah, big wooden barrel. And this was before they made oil out of animals, I mean out of vegetables. And that was made in San Jose on Bassett Street.

IO This is a more or less clear glass bottle and it says on the bottle "Plumrose Brand, Western Meat Company."

HVG These are the oil, cooking oil or ....

HFG Cooking oil.

IO Like lard or rendering?

HFG Yeah, that's right. This was before lard. Lard didn't come in until about 1922.

HVG           Our mothers used it in baking, in cooking anything. Shawn was born in 1970, a year after the earthquake. I remember when we went back he explained \_\_\_\_\_ but if he was born in '70 and you said something about an earthquake so I'm just trying to figure. Maybe you could figure the \_\_\_\_\_, that's what I was thinking.

HFG           Oh, and that doesn't make any difference. Nobody was there at that time in \_\_\_\_\_.

IO            Did your father recycle these bottles? I mean, when the people drank the beer did they get a....?

HFG           They dropped them there and he had to get 'em back again and reuse them. You're right, they recycled 'em, but I mean they didn't snap 'em up. They had so many beer bottles and took 'em out to these beer places and bars and then they collected 'em back. And I have -- Where is that where I got that big beer box? It was like a \_\_\_\_\_ but it was made out of wood. It was about that wide and it held a dozen bottles and I have one in the basement.

IO            So the bottles came back and got refilled?

HFG           That's right.

IO           And went back out again.

HFG           Went out again. Well there's some there have the wire with the porcelain, you know. I should have refinished them with the wire.

IO           I see this bottle here has like a lip up here where you could put a crimp ....

HFG           That's right. This is a dual-purpose and this one was a single.

IO           You could not put a cap on that bottle.

HFG           No, I've tried. You know, I think there's one in there with....

IO           What did a bottle of beer cost at this time?

HFG           Listen, I was only a kid and the only thing I know when my father was going there to get his haircut and shave for two bits and then going to the saloon. There was a shelf there that had everything on it from pigs feet to sourkraut and there were no hotdogs in those days but it was \_\_\_\_\_ and you could have a full meal and that's how the people got in there and then at the end of that

saloon they had a big room and it had a door on it and then kids had wire and it was about that much was straw, what I can remember, and \_\_\_\_\_ we used to pick up the milker on Sunday night.

IO Pick up the milker? What is that?

HFG There was a man who milked the cows. There was no milking machine, and they usually were Swiss and they milked with their thumb like that. I milked like this but they went like that and then when I'd go in there they'd have that knot in there and boy they wouldn't like it.

IO Henry was showing that the Swiss put their thumbs inside the \_\_\_\_\_, and the way he milked he put his thumb outside. Okay.

HFG How'd you do?

IO I never milked a cow in my life.

HFG You never did?

IO The next time will be the first time.

HFG        Oh. And the milking machines are in order a long time.  
Now we're kinda going to \_\_\_\_\_ and I  
have a traveling case that her -- great grandfather?  
Hazel?

HVG        What's that?

HFG        Who I got the shaving case from?

HVG        Oh, yeah.

HFG        Baxter?

HVG        I think that's who.

HFG        Yeah, your great grandfather. Now if I can remember and  
when you said about that time with the earthquake, God  
knows if I didn't have my shaving set up there and it  
fell down and I had an old, not an old but a new, replica  
of a washing machine and it fell on top of my case and it  
kinda ruined it. \_\_\_\_\_ (He says  
something here from another part of the room.) You can  
read on here \_\_\_ do you have your glasses on? and that is  
the date. Even the customs officer in the San Francisco  
wharf....



IO           In the San Francisco war?

HFG          Wharf.

IO           Wharf, okay.

HFG          Did I say it right? Know what I mean?

IO           Yeah, I do.

HFG          Or pier or whatever you want to call it, landing.

IO           Waterfront, yeah.

HFG          Yeah, waterfront.

IO           What I'm looking at here is a -- it looks like redwood or walnut or some dark wood and it has a brass inlay on it that says, "J. G. Baxter 1848" and this is a cylinder that I would say is about three inches in diameter and maybe 10 inches long and it has a hinge on one end and it's got a lock on the other end.

HFG          And I have a key for the lock.

IO           And it looks like this opens up, and there's a shaving

kit inside?

HFG        Yeah. Now you coulda opened it.

IO        And inside is a couple of compartments. Is this soap?

HFG        Yeah it is.

IO        There's a mirror, there's two straight razors and a pair of scissors. Is this a strop?

HFG        This is a strop.

IO        This is a small strop, say....

HFG        Yeah, the cover is on it.

IO        Oh, oh I see. This strop has, it looks like, a cardboard case and there's two pieces of leather, a coarse piece and a fine piece, stuck onto a piece of, I would say, oak and the stick itself is long, about seven inches long, and each piece of leather is probably about six, and it fits into a compartment in here.

HFG        Yeah, right down at the bottom.

IO           Underneath the razor tray there is another compartment with a toothbrush and a fingernail file. What would go in here?

HFG          Well, that is a \_\_\_\_\_. Would it be a shaving brush?

IO           Could be.

HFG          And here's a scissors under this. I took the two -- and that is as complete. Now, you tell me what was this for?

IO           What we're talking about now is a, it looks like a very small corkscrew only it just has threads about an eighth of an inch on the end and it's got like an ivory T handle.

HFG          And that is a regular ivory.

IO           And I would say this is a screwdriver on this end. Does that come out of there?

HFG          No, no, it don't screw it that way.

IO           You turn this around, I don't know what you got but you got something.

HFG        Look what he's done, Hazel. Look what he did to my, what I always called a gimlet or screw, and I said it was used to put the hole in a cigar. Now I was really wrong. Look what he got out of it.

IO        Well no, that seemed like an idea that would work. You could ream the end of a cigar with that very easily. But it looks like this is a two-ended thing when you turn this around. I don't know what you do with that, maybe you enlarge the hole with that. Henry, you're overwhelming me. You got me off the subject.

HFG        Shut it off for a while. (IO coughing here.) And Hazel.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Hazel says something here that is inaudible.) Well now, he was out here, the custom officer.

HVG        Yeah, in San Francisco.

HFG        Yeah, at San Francisco wharf. And her grandmother  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Hazel again says something here.) Yeah, was the first white girl to be born on the San Francisco wharf.

IO        Was he an official of the U.S. Government? This wasn't U.S. territory at this time.

HFG No, no.

IO Who was he connected with?

HFG Well, must have been with the shipping company or the City of San Francisco or somebody who had the authority to examine the things that came in or where they went or.... Boy, you're asking me some questions that I....

HVG Maybe I could find out.

HFG Yeah, her sister is very good.

IO Well, I wouldn't expect you to remember this (Hazel laughs) but if you do know something that's very interesting.

HFG Now that size of that, it's got everything in it that they got a big old leather thing nowadays. Clippers, razor, and this (IO coughing again) one razor came from -- well, he was related to the Cottle family and he gave me one razor and my brother always used a straight razor, these two. But I have more, I have some of 'em that wide and we used to use 'em in the shop to cut our gaskets out, by golly.

IO           The gaskets for what?

HFG          For the gasoline engines, the head gaskets, and when the water pump goes off and all the fittings of an engine where you had to have a gasket or in a water faucet or anything. We used to cut our own gaskets.

IO          In what timeframe are we talking now? This is Model T time?

HFG          Clear until I quit the -- until '66.

IO          Until '66. And you worked on your own engine?

HFG          We never took an engine off of the tractor or the automobile because the war was on or before the war my brother was, that was his -- he was a natural. He used to tear an engine down, a tractor down, out in the field and dig a hole and put a canvas and a bearing would go out and we'd swing the bearing there and carve it in ourselves and I have all the things to do it, the babbitt -- we didn't have these God-darned inserts or reconditioned outfits.

IO          So where did you get the babbitt from that you carved out?

HFG        Bought it in your machine shop or I mean your automobile car shop and you had your ladle and you heated it on the forge though afterwards we did it with a blow torch with a cover, you know, a blow torch that would be down here \_\_\_\_\_, but in the early days we heated it in the \_\_\_\_\_ shop. The first one we had the bellows was all leather with wood bellows and you \_\_\_\_\_ it up and down to blow the air into the bed of your fire.

IO        This was like a coke fire or coal fire?

HFG        That's right. Your whatchamacallit was hard, coke or....

IO        Coal?

HFG        Coal yeah, but it was real hard so it would make a good fire. I still have the old furnace that you could \_\_\_\_\_ with your hand and then I converted it over to electric. During the war we pulled our pump 450 feet down, pulled it back and we had a case with a tractor on the end and I'd go out there and we'd build our own pipe tower of an 8-inch pipe and we'd pull that pump out, recondition it and put it back in.

IO        Now this was an electric pump?

HFG        Electric yeah. But I had a gasoline before that, a gasoline engine too, I pulled it.

IO         Did it pump water?

HFG        What?

IO         Did it pump water?

HFG        That's right.

IO         What'd you have, a shaft that you \_\_\_\_\_ the pump?

HFG        That's right and it was down 450 feet. This was after our \_\_\_\_\_ because I helped dig the well 110 feet deep and had a mule on top and then on the one of 'em with the \_\_\_\_\_ and got nothing.

IO         Was water always that far down in the ground?

HFG        It never came near, it was terrible, it was all. We had the water until they took it away from us when our springs went dry, every place had a spring and \_\_\_\_\_ had two springs, one right above the house and one further up, and good water, and then everybody started to pump down in the valley there for their alfalfa and their



trees and there were some wells there 700 feet deep.

IO           It's amazing you can get your water up from that far down.

HFG          Yeah, and then during the war ....

IO           This is World War II?

HFG          Yeah, and this was 1947 when we dug the wells. I dug one, my father-in-law dug one and we put money into it. Yeah, what was it, \_\_\_\_\_ \$9,000.00 and nowadays \$9,000.00 is nothing, they pay that for a lousy old automobile. Look at that gad-darn Taurus of mine, way up there, uh huh, about \$10,000.

IO           I would think so, yes.

HFG          I know.

IO           Today it's closer to 20.

HFG          Yeah, ours is a '88 and it's got all the God-darn gimmicks on it. Well, this is the first one I bought that was an executive's car. It had 7,000 miles on it and I bought it in '89; well it was six months old and it

had either 6 or 7,000 miles and right today what you think it's got on it? 16.

IO           You don't drive it much?

HFG          No, I drive the station wagon.

IO           The first car you had was a used Model T?

HFG          Yeah, the first car, 300 bucks, and then bought a brand new one for \$428.00.

IO           A brand new Model T?

HFG          Brand new one from her uncle and he had an agency in North \_\_\_\_\_.

IO           Her relative was a Ford dealer?

HFG          What?

IO           Hazel's relative was a Ford dealer?

HFG          A Ford, Dodge and I don't know how much (chuckle), Hazel, what did he have all there? Ford I guess was his main but he had Dodge, he didn't have Buick.

IO           You paid \$300.00 for the used Model T. What did a new Model T cost?

HFG           \$428.00 but it did not have any battery, but the other one well the guy's trying to make a race car out of it or something.

IO           Okay, I know what you're talking about.

HFG           And in those days you know what they'd do when they thought they were gonna get more power? (Makes a noise like revving a car) They'd \_\_\_\_\_ her over (laughter).  
\_\_\_\_\_ like a telephone pole and they had the Walker transmission that was in between the foot pedals and boy! when you gave that baby the gun and slipped it into gear it would tear the \_\_\_\_\_ right off the end of the car (laughter). (IO coughing here.) They only had that one year.

IO           What kind of car did you have after the second Model T?

HFG           I had a Model T truck in 1926 and then I bought another Model T and I cut it down and put a buggy frame on top of it and did that all by hand. \_\_\_\_\_  
to cover everything with, an old hack saw and to a

sharpener \_\_\_\_\_, you know that was inside of the \_\_\_\_\_ and I took that on the old Ford there and I heated it up and I cut off what I didn't want and then I squared that part so it would get into the toggle joints.

IO And you say you put a buggy body....?

HFG Yeah, a buggy body on it.

IO Well what was the significance of this? And why did you want to do that?

HFG Because of a third cousin (laughter). \_\_\_\_\_ he tells me too much \_\_\_\_\_. Third cousin had one but he put a two-seater on it and her father and I piled 'em up, buggies with rubber tires and \_\_\_\_\_ and this was a single-seater and it had the fenders off. You know, on top it was an umbrella and it was on this single seat. There was a guy had a Durant and it was a 600 Durant and he had Ford feet in it and everything and I could take that old Model T and go right up the hill there because the wheels were only that far apart.

IO You mean from the front to the rear.

HFG        Yeah, the rear of the front tires here and the rear of the rear tires, the closest the tires -- the distance between -- was about two feet. And an old friend of mine him and I did the whole works, tore the top off and boy that one just cranked, I mean it didn't even have ring gear on it or a starter, you know. It was just all crank and it was a good one because that was handmade. Is that thing workin'?

IO        Uh huh.

HFG        Oh, I'm not gonna say what I was gonna say.

IO        Go ahead.

HFG        (Laughter) You know, every morning I'd milk the cow one week and then my brother would do the cookin' and my folks would stay in bed because we had \_\_\_\_\_ back there, about seven and.....

IO        To go to school?

HFG        By golly, at quarter to either(?) is when we went and I'd go out there and three times up, just pull up and I'd tell everybody I had a \_\_\_\_\_. And I'd get in the front there and I'd grab ahold of that crank and I said, "Now

Lizzy this is Henry, turn over", off she'd go.

IO And where were you leaving to?

HFG Goin' to school.

IO School, okay.

HFG Yeah, goin' to school.

IO But this was before you picked up Hazel.

HFG Oh yeah, because she only went the last -- see, I graduated in '25 and she graduated in '28?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Hazel's answer inaudible.) Yeah '28. Hey, we're gettin' into a lot of different things here, you know it? Who's gonna straighten all this out?

IO I don't know, somebody.

HFG You are, you're gonna help me write my book.

IO This is maybe the beginning of your book. Could that be?

HFG That could be, you bet. I'd be glad.

IO           Are you tired yet?

HFG          Not too tired but you ask me some questions. Here, have a nip.

IO           Well, one of the things I had down here was co-ops. What's your recollection of the co-ops? You were involved with them.

HFG          Yeah, I was a charter member of the co-op which was a eastside \_\_\_\_\_ dehydrator.

IO           What was the motivation to make the co-op? Why did you need co-ops?

HFG          Well, there were small business outfits like Rosenberg's. Did you ever hear that name?

IO           I've heard of Rosenberg Market.

HFG          Yeah, and this Rosenberg was a handler of from rice to prunes, to almonds, to -- well every product, \_\_\_\_\_ products of apricots and peaches, and then there was CPC with Del Monte and there was -- help me out with all these canneries that used the packing houses, Hazel.

IO Well, there was a time when there were not co-ops, wasn't there?

HFG That's right. 1916 was the first co-op in prunes and apricots and it was called "The Prune and Apricot" and a guy by the name of Corkendahl was the president and he ran away with our money and the clerk.

IO Female clerk?

HFG Yeah, female secretary. And then she went kaput so then in 1929....

IO Kaput means she died?

HFG No, I mean the co-op.

IO The co-op (laughter).

HFG (Laughter) The co-op. And then 1929 was when we had the big flop, and in 1927 when I rented the orchard I had a good crop and I had good fruit and I rented it on a fifty-fifty basis but he furnished the tractor and then we both went half and half on the fuel and then the labor, that was all on me.



IO           Who paid for water? Was the water....?

HFG           We did not have any water. I dry-farmed clear up to 1947 when we bored those wells. It was all dry farming and it was good because the land was good and the trees were good and we had the springs around here and the creek partly ran all year round, but after they started to pump there and took all our water away and then goin' down 700 feet, you know what they're doin' to our springs. I only bored about 10 wells but that well out there is only 50 feet deep and the water stands right now -- they always measure it -- it stands at 21 1/2 feet from the top and it's cold water. And the 500 foot well that we had that water was warm and you think it should be, but where does this water come from? It's gotta come from the Sierras 'cause we haven't had no water here, and then we paid \$20.00 an acre to get the water here from the Anderson Dam and now these God-darn guys came along and took the canal away and boy, I'm still fightin' it that they should give the Villages water at, well an industrial price, maybe not a farmer's price, an orchard price.

IO           When you say Villages, are you talking about this retirement....?

HFG           That's right.

IO           The Villages, okay.

HFG           See, they bought 160 acres from Hazel and  
\_\_\_\_\_ and this back \_\_\_\_\_ which was Snyder  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the entrance right down there was our  
property.

IO           Hazel's family owned most of The Villages land, is that  
what you just said?

HFG           No, not most, they bought 1200 acres.

IO           They, The Villages?

HFG           The Villages bought from Cribari which was broke and they  
were the bank. The bank owned the acres and the \_\_\_\_\_  
Mancuso owned another 50 acres and Herman Nelson up here  
was another 50 acres and Hazel and the folks had 60 and  
the Snyder place, which was next to Baxter, that had  
another 60 and then my sister-in-law didn't want any more  
land 'cause the taxes were up and I had to buy her share  
of the Snyder place, which was only a quarter there  
because she had an aunt, and I bought what was left of  
the Hart place and there was seven acres, the crops were  
rowed there of \_\_\_\_\_, and I bought the remainder of  
theirs and then she said I had to buy her half over at

Capitola.

IO Is she your sister-in-law?

HFG In-law, her sister.

IO Oh, her sister, okay.

HFG It's a sister-in-law and her sister.

IO Hazel's sister.

HFG Yeah. So then I bought her half of the place in Capitola, then everything was hers and mine. (IO coughing)

IO Okay, I'm still a little bit confused here. (Laughter)  
The property that is now called The Villages.

HFG That's right, The Villages.

IO The Villages. Was that at one time some of your property?

HFG Yeah, I sold them 30 acres at that time, about 40 or 45 of the Hart place and then the Snyder place, which was

Hazel's mother's and her sister's place. Yeah, about, like I said, we sold -- the whole gang -- we sold about 160 acres to The Villages.

IO And how does Cribari fit into this?

HFG Well, he was a newcomer here, he didn't come in here until in 1946 when he sold his vineyard out down at Madrone and he bought, which was first, the Weiner(?) property but before that the Pasilla(?) Brothers, which was related to the Cribaris. Are you gettin' me or am I goin' around?

IO No, go ahead. I'm sort of going around.

HFG You know where the Sun Garden Cannery is today?

IO No.

HFG Yeah, right on First Street and where the lumber company was, the old Southern Lumber Company. What is that, Alma going through there?

HVG Yes.

HFG And Pasillas built that cannery that is still running in

San Jose. Right before you get to -- the street that goes across there? You've seen the cannery, \_\_\_\_\_ up there?

IO Maybe I haven't paid any attention.

HFG They call that Sun Garden. But they built it in the first place, Pasilla Brothers, and then the Pasilla Brothers the bank took them over when one of them passed away and they wouldn't let the young people run it and the bank took it over, and then afterwards it was run by the -- which is called the Sun Garden now. When Weiner quit and then Prohibition came and a Jewish gentleman from back East bought the winery and it had about 500 acres of grapes. Kellerman was his name and when he bought it then there was Prohibition and he was gonna' sell it to the priests to pass it out to their people, or what do you call that wine?

IO Sacramental wine.

HFG Yeah, and it didn't work out and then the bank took it and then Pasilla Brothers bought it and then when that one fellow passed away and the bank didn't like it then they took it back again. And then Cribari sold out, he was at Madrone. You know what the Madrone is? They call

it Morgan Hill now. Madrone was on this side and Morgan Hill was on the other side of the railroad. You came along with the railroad and you went under the railroad, that was Morgan Hill. But Madrone was there; he had a nice big winery and all the thing is dead and he sold that out for a million bucks.

IO You said something about Prohibition. That came in the 20's.

HFG 1918 when she went dry. It didn't get freshened up until 1923.

IO Okay. I think it was later than that but it was some time ago.

HFG Yeah, it was 1932.

IO Yeah, I think it was '32.

HFG It was '32.

IO But Cribari was making wine all during Prohibition out here where The Villages is now? He was raising grapes.

HFG No, he was making it there at Morgan Hill.

IO           Okay, at Madrone.

HFG          Yeah.

IO           But he was raising the grapes here?

HFG          No, he didn't move over here until 1926, after the war,  
even after the war.

IO           Okay, so the property here never was involved with making  
wine or growing grapes.

HFG          Yeah.

IO           Oh it was.

HFG          Oh sure, all the time, even when he had it, and then he  
bought the Heinson Ranch, which was Wehner(?) started all  
these ranches, a man by the name of Wehner. And then a  
man by the name of Heinsig(?), after World War I, and  
that's when the orchards really were goin' in, from 1919  
through -- what would you say when it was really at its  
top? Oh, I'd say in 1960. And this was beautiful, had  
all prunes and apricots and cattle and everything.

IO           When you had all this property, was there fruit trees on

it? Or just some of it was just open pasture land?

HFG        Some was pasture land like this here 40 acres, it had nine acres of prunes and nine acres of apricots, that was 18, and the balance, 22 acres, was well, like down here, family orchard and the rest was grain.

(End of Tape 1, Side 2.)

(Tape 2, Side 1.)

IO        This interview is taking place at the home of Hazel and Henry Gerdt. The date is February 5, 1992. At this session Sides 3, 4, 5 and 6 were recorded. Sides 1 and 2 were recorded on January 27, 1992 and at that session basically the interview was with Henry Gerdt solo. This is Side 3. My name is Igor Ouimett. This recording session is done on behalf of the San Jose Historical Oral History Program.

(Long pause.)

IO        Hazel, what do you remember about when radio and telephone and electricity first came into your life? What are your recollections about that?



HVG Well, electricity made quite a difference. (Her voice is inaudible after this point.)

IO Do you know when this happened in your life?

HVG When the electricity came in, let's see, when did we start when the last \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG We were married in 1932. I believe we got the electricity from here; your folks had gotten it in 1928.

HVG They got it in 1928, they had the old Delco System at first, then he got the electricity 1928.

IO What do you mean by the old Delco System? What is that?

HVG The Delco System was a....

HFG It was a gasoline engine and generated the electricity and started in about 12 batteries.

IO You sort of had your own private \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG That's right, to generate electricity. And that one you had to start \_\_\_\_\_ but they had a Lally System that when you turned on the lights, that started the engine

which had a self-starter on it.

IO           This was a gasoline engine?

HFG          That's right.

IO           And the word you said was Lolly like L-o-l-l-y?

HFG          L-a.

IO           L-a-l-l-y?

HFG          Yeah.

IO           That was a brand name?

HFG          That was a brand name.

IO           Like Delco?

HFG          Just like hers was Delco.

IO           Okay, it was just a different manufacturer?

HFG          That's right.

IO But it was more automatic?

HFG That's right, and theirs was 32 volt and the Lally was 110.

IO Okay, so the Lally was alternating current? Can you say that?

HFG Yeah.

IO And the Delco was direct current.

HFG Direct current.

IO Before you had electricity, for your ironing and so forth, you had to heat the iron on the stove?

HVG Heat the irons on the stove, right.

IO Did this make your life easier and with less....?

HVG Yes, yes. Yes that's right.

IO And do you remember when you got a telephone? Not necessarily when you and Henry got a telephone but when either one of you....

HVG Yes, when we got a telephone -- let's see what year?

HFG You mean your folks?

HVG Yes, I'm thinking about my folks, when they got a telephone line.

HFG I think it was before you was born when there was one in the house. No (pause) around your time when you was born because when it went up to the winery.

HVG 1910 about.

HFG Yeah.

HVG About 1910.

IO So as far as you're concerned, you've always had a telephone in your life.

HVG There's always been one (rest of sentence inaudible).

IO But Henry, you can remember when you didn't have a telephone?

HFG Why sure. Didn't have one when I got married, we didn't

have a telephone but I ran....

IO           You mean your folks didn't have one before then?

HFG          No, my folks didn't have one.

IO           The first phone that you ever had was after you and Hazel  
got married?

HFG          In 1936. We had a temporary phone, like a farm phone.  
I ran it on galvanized wire from her folks to the Snyder  
house when we got married and it was just, well, like a -  
- you lifted it up and we had a buzzer sound to let your  
folks know, but it was not connected with any telephone  
company.

HVG          Just from house to house.

IO           You had your own private little system.

HFG          That's right.

HVG          That's right.

IO           And the reason you had it between these two houses was  
because you two were going together or....?

HFG No, this was after we were married.

IO Oh, after you were married.

HVG Yes and then we had a....

HFG 1932, after.

HVG ....had a way of conversing between the two houses.

HFG See, people could ring up at her folks, like a oil company or phone business or anything, and then they could ring to us and tell us we got to get into town \_\_\_\_\_ so and so.

IO So one of the houses had a phone that connected to the outside world.

HFG That's right or her folks.

HVG Or San Jose or wherever.

HFG It's just like the phones that are in the schools in the town.

IO Okay. What powered this private phone system that you

had, dry-cell battery or....?

HFG Two dry-cell batteries till we made it three. Each one had a volt and a half; they were about that big around. That's what we used on the gasoline engines, too.

IO Dry cell \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG Dry cell, yeah. Not for self starting, for electricity to run the sparkplugs, went through the coil and that you cranked it.

IO You didn't have a magneto?

HFG Yeah, a magneto that you cranked it and the magneto -- and some of 'em didn't have a magneto. Some had these dry cells but the ones that had a magneto you just worked direct and you cranked it and the magneto took hold, maybe and maybe not, but that's what ran it through the magneto. But the other one, like my little engine there, was run a battery and then a buzzer coil like in a Model T. Now the stationary coil, like you had when you got a magneto, this buzzes and if it don't buzz it won't fire.

IO Okay.

HFG I'm interrupting.

IO No, this is a joint effort. When you had this private intercom, where did you buy the phone or how did you go to get the....?

HFG To Montgomery Ward.

IO Montgomery Ward. Did you go to the store or order through a catalog or....?

HFG Ordered catalog. Since 1928.

IO Was there a Montgomery store....?

HFG Oakland, California.

IO That was the closest one?

HFG That's right. First it was at Chicago and then it moved, but in about 1925 it moved into Oakland. Otherwise it all came. And then there was \_\_\_\_\_ Sears & Roebuck and we had the other one -- the one I used to get the outboard motors through -- Spiegel. Did you hear of Spiegel?



IO           Yep, Chicago.

HFG          Chicago and they had one in Canada too.

IO           Was this phone that you got from Montgomery Ward, did it have Ward's name on it or did it have some other name Hazel? Do you remember?

HVG          (Reply inaudible.)

IO           Did you get....?

HFG          I don't think it had any name.

IO           Did you get the phone with a thousand feet of wire or....?

HFG          No. We bought the wire.

IO           Did you get it with instructions?

HFG          Instructions and how -- in other words, how far the two cells would take you, and just one wire, a galvanized wire about a number 16. No, it was bigger than that -- well 14.

IO And you installed this yourself?

HFG Yeah.

IO That sounds kind of interesting. On the first tape you did, Henry, you mentioned something about an automobile with a Woford transmission.

HFG That was a Model T.

IO Okay.

HFG And the Woford transmission was from the drive shaft -- it was in between the drive shaft and the transmission clear over to the transmission \_\_\_\_\_ in the Model T. And all it did was it increased your low gear and your high gear. It had a reverse in it which made your reverse a little faster, but otherwise that's all that that transmission did; it didn't have three shifts to it or two shifts, it was just conversion from one power to another.

IO To activate this Woford transmission, I take it from the way you're describing it, it had a forward position and a reverse position.

HFG           That's right.

IO            Did you activate this by lever or....?

HFG           By lever.

IO            On your dash or....?

HFG           Right down on the floor \_\_\_\_\_ shift.

IO            Okay, to start swing down next to the driver. And you just pushed it up or pulled it down, what did you do with it?

HFG           I pushed it back and forth.

IO            Okay, forwards and backwards, and if you pushed it backwards it made the car go backwards?

HFG           That's right.

IO            Is this something you installed yourself?

HFG           No, it was in that secondhand Ford when we bought it.

IO            Do you know whether it came from the Ford factory with

that in it?

HFG No.

IO Somebody installed it....

HFG That's right, there was the Wextel and there was dozens of others. Everybody made money on Ford until he came in the V8 and then they couldn't add any accessories because on your Model A and your Model T you had Wolford beds and everything \_\_\_\_\_ (next few words inaudible).

IO So Wolford was a manufacturer or supplier of accessories.

HFG That's right, accessories.

IO So he made more than transmissions. He made a lot like lights or -- what other equipment would he....?

HFG Well I couldn't tell you. He must have made other transmissions and \_\_\_\_\_ in a machine shop. He had all these blind shafts to convert. Say you wanted this car to go faster than somethin', then he'd install somethin' like that so I guess he was a manufacturer of just transmissions.

IO            \_\_\_\_\_ a speech and started out with his  
              \_\_\_\_\_\*

HFG          Well I didn't know too much about it. I was only what?  
14 years old (laughter). And look at what a time our  
folks had, drivin' those horses and all at once 45 years  
old and get into one of those blame old horseless  
carriages, huh?

IO          Was this frightening for them, do you remember?

HFG          Do I?

IO          Was it frightening, I mean were they reluctant to get in?

HFG          Well no, it didn't seem to bother my father but my mother  
never did drive. Well, there wasn't anything else much  
to bump into. In 1915 there weren't many, out here  
anyway, maybe in New York where you was there was all  
kinds. But here there wasn't too many automobiles; the  
main automobile was Studebaker.

IO          Studebaker was bigger out here than Ford?

HFG          Well, not in this area. It was just as big, wasn't it?

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

HFG Yeah, that and Buick. Well Dodge was too but I think the Studebaker had a good agency and they had Cadillac, too. But the Chevrolet, that Baby Grand that we had, was before the regular Chevrolet. It was a combination of General Motors, taking a Buick four cylinder engine and puttin' it in a big body, which I pushed it from Placerville to Echo Summit and my mother and brother were in driving and my father and I were pushing past Placerville. It took us three days to get to the top. Maybe I told you.

IO Yeah.

HFG Now I'll shut up.

IO It's been my impression that part of the reason women didn't take to driving too much is because in the early cars they had to crank 'em to start 'em. When the self-starter came out, women really got involved then. Is that the way you remember it?

HVG That did make the difference.

HFG Well, you didn't drive much, heck no, until your father

got you that Ford and I was a worker.

HVG        It was a case of gettin' to school 'cause no one else was driving from on up the road at that time. You see, some of the people that were still going to school they'd pick me up on the way down and then when they were all graduated, or whatever, I was up in need to get my own transportation and that's when I got my Ford.

IO         So you learned to drive while you were still going to high school?

HVG        Yes.

IO         And what kind of a Ford did you get then?

HVG        A Model T wasn't it?

HFG        A Model T, single seated, and about one of the last ones that Henry Ford made, in 1927?

HVG        No, '2\_, I was fif....

HFG        Yeah, it was the last one they had in the agency here. They had \_\_\_\_\_ with wheels and....

HVG        See, Earlin(?) brought Charlotte down and I dropped her off at Bonnell, the grade school, it was a grade school at that time, they still had it there. She went to school in there and I dropped her off and it was right close to San Jose High School at that time.

IO        Did you say this Model T had a single seat?

HVG        One seat.

IO        Just a driver's seat? Or are you saying a front seat?

HVG        A bench.

HFG        A bench seat.

IO        Okay, it was a coupe.

HVG        Yeah, they called it a coupe.

IO        It had a hard top or a \_\_\_\_\_ on top?

HVG        Yeah.

IO        A hard top?



HVG Yes.

IO Was it black.

HFG No, it was olive green.

IO All over?

HVG Yes.

IO Oh, okay, 'cause I had heard you could have any color Ford you wanted as long as it was black. (chuckle)

HFG Yeah, black was what you could expect to \_\_\_\_\_ and olive green.

HVG Yeah. I know Mr. Cooley, at the Ford place, he's the one that taught me to drive.

IO This was your uncle at the Ford place?

HVG No, Mr. Cooley lived down at Berryessa from where \_\_\_\_\_ out that way.

IO This was another Ford dealer?

HFG Yeah, Cutford's.

HVG Oh, Cutford, that's it.

HFG He was a salesman, the one she mentioned.

IO Cooley was a salesman at Cutford's?

HFG At Cutford's.

IO And this Cutford's was in Berryessa area.

HFG No, in San Jose.

HVG He lived in Berryessa area but he worked for Cutford and that's the one that taught me to drive.

HFG That's right.

IO Do you remember where this Cutford dealer was located, approximately, or any idea?

HFG Sure, at first he was on Julian and First.

HVG Julian and First. You know, I forget things out that way.

HFG Julian and First and then....

IO There's a Letcher's Garage there in that place.

HFG Letcher's Garage was on St. James on this side of the Courthouse. St. John is here and St. James and First and Dodge was there, too.

IO Okay.

HFG Is Letcher's still there?

IO No, it's a nightclub now.

HFG Oh, along \_\_\_\_\_?

IO It's the Oasis, no. (Laughter from HFG) Okay, this Cutford Ford dealer was in that same general location somewhere around the Courthouse there.

HFG Yeah.

IO And it was on the corner of Julian and First. Was it on the same side as the Courthouse or was it on the other side?

HFG No, the opposite side.

IO It was on the same side as Letcher's.

HFG Yeah, on the east side.

IO Do you have any memories of Letcher's Garage when his wife shot him? Are you familiar with that story?

HFG That is young Letcher got shot, not the old man, right?

IO You tell me.

HFG Well the young man took over here at the corner \_\_\_\_\_ Letcher. Well I just know that \_\_\_\_\_, the young man, and I remember the shooting but I thought it was \_\_\_\_\_; I may be wrong.

IO I never knew there was two Letchers (laughter).

HFG Oh, well it was the young one then. Sure, the father started the Letcher Garage.

HVG I knew there was a Letcher Garage but I didn't know....

HFG And then right below that was the one who had the Dodge

agency and owned that ranch up there where Tony and Gary live now.

HVG Oh.

HFG And Benson and Weaver were the people who had Studebaker and Cadillac, if you want automobile agencies.

IO Whatever.

HFG Fine. Yeah, they had the agency for -- but by golly, you know the Buick is the same as today, huh. I mean kept the same name, Strong or whatever. It's all yours, Better Half.

IO (Comment inaudible, coughing.) What do you remember about -- well, women were sort of third-class citizens before, they didn't used to get to vote, and I understood that they never got to do the money end of things. Do you have any recollections of the first time you voted or anything like that?

HVG Well, not necessarily when I voted, but I went shopping with my mother; she drove and I went shopping with her to start down in San Jose. That right?

HFG        Yeah.

IO        But you never felt that you were discriminated against?

HVG        No, no.

IO        You never had any thoughts or feelings like that?

HVG        No, no no.

HFG        She was too young for that.

HVG        She used to go to the Coast and we'd travel over to Capitola and then when I started to drive into my last year in high school, and like I say I took Charlotte Whaley in with me, then I went on to Heald. I went to Heald's Business College and I drove there and it was just north of Market Street at that time, Heald's Business College. For all that time I was driving by myself and when I started to work at the County Library I drove all that time. Let's see, did I still have that car? I guess I did.

HFG        Yeah.

HVG        Yes, all that time I worked at the County Library.

IO           Where was the County Library at that time?

HVG           In the Hall of -- the two judges were upstairs, Judge Dempsey and Judge....

HFG           Telford, no not Telford.

HVG           No.

HFG           What was the guy's name?

HVG           Miller? Was it Judge Miller?

HFG           Yeah, but there was a City Judge of the Municipal....

HVG           Yeah, and then the Agricultural Commissioner was downstairs along side the library downstairs, and in the back some of the Sheriff's Department was part of that back there. That would be on the First Street, from Market through to First Street north of Santa Clara Street. Was it \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG           But the part she was on was Market and...

HVG           Hall of a -- Justice.

HFG Justice.

HVG Hall of Justice.

HFG And at one time there had been a Juvenile down below there where she was, a jail for the juveniles. Right?

HVG Yes.

IO When you worked at the library, the library was in the Hall of Justice? Is that what you're saying?

HFG In the basement of the Hall of Justice.

HVG (First part of comment inaudible) \_\_\_\_\_  
the County Library. \_\_\_\_\_ for the County Library,  
not the City Library. There was two different libraries.

IO Okay.

HVG Then we sent books out to various small communities around the county even up to toward the Santa Cruz Mountains. There's so many branches, you're not allowed to have branches of libraries through the area to these towns. They have branches down even Los Gatos.



IO           When you were driving yourself around, like you were going to high school and Heald's College, was there much paved roads or was there any paved roads?

HVG           Yes, yes.

IO           Mostly paved roads?

HVG           It's been mostly paved roads, yes.

HFG           Yeah, only two lanes.

HVG           Yeah, two lanes.

HFG           And no center section, no center white line or yellow line.

IO           Now this was like in the late '20s that you're talking about?

HVG           Yes.

IO           Okay. You can't tie it down closer like '26, '27?

HVG           Yes, it would be around in the '20s, from '24 to '27, Henry?

HFG        Yeah.

IO        Was there traffic lights then? Stop signs like we have today?

HVG        No.

IO        And when you first started driving there was horse and buggies on the road as well as automobiles?

HVG        Not....

HFG        Well like gravel trucks and dray animals but....

HVG        No, not too much.

HFG        It had grown to hard rubber tires.

IO        Horses were sort of out of the picture by then?

HVG        Yes.

IO        You didn't have any \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG        No, just cowboys had 'em and people who wanted....

HVG Farm wagons and such.

IO Henry, you made some comment here while we were talking earlier about the -- I can't remember the name of that general store. Tell me the name of that....

HFG That was Evergreen General Store.

IO Okay, and you said there was something about a route business or something where they butchered and delivered the meat?

HFG There was a butcher shop run by the name of Mr. Baxter and all he handled was meat and he about, what would you say? half a mile or three quarters of a mile was where he had his slaughterhouse. You have a fancy name for slaughterhouse but this is he'd buy calves from us and cows and would slaughter 'em there and then take 'em down to his butcher shop. But in those days they didn't have like you have today a cooling room or, but they called it a cooling room, which would have a steam outlet down below and an exhaust up above for the circulation of cool air through there. And after the store that was all mercantile until when Airway came in and I worked there well then you had like baloney and bacon and ham and things like that which on the bacon every two days you

had to wipe 'em off with vinegar so the people wouldn't see the little white stuff in it. And they were really smoked in there \_\_\_\_\_ and you could eat it. That's the only thing I ate was fresh French bread and a slice of bacon. I wasn't much for sweets or....

IO           When you say "a slice of bacon" was this a cooked slice of bacon?

HFG           Smoked. Smoked, cured bacon.

IO           It was cold? Did you eat it....

HFG           It was cold.

IO           Cold.

HFG           And because I did that then Baker's, it was Louie's Bakers, he came in the afternoon and he had French bread and what they called nut bread and we sold three loaves for a quarter. So he said, "Did you like that?" And I said, "Yeah." He says, "How much of it could you eat?" and I said, "I don't know." He says, "How much of this loaf will you eat?" And I ate the whole loaf. And every day I got a loaf of warm, he used to wrap it, bread.

HVG            Was that Louie's Bakery called Louie's Bakery?

HFG            Yeah.

HVG            Where was this?

HFG            It was one street this side of Julian and San Pedro.

HVG            Oh, it was on the north side of Santa Clara Street.

HFG            Yeah.

IO             Now this Louie's Bakery was not part of this mercantile store that you....

HFG            No, he delivered to the mercantile store. He was a -- and Keystone filled it up. And every month....

IO             What does that mean "Keystone filled it up"?

HFG            Well, they were \_\_\_\_\_ suppliers, like you have the big companies that fill up Safeway, fill up Lucky, and so forth. You have your produce people, you have your dairy people, and in those days Keystone was the supplier of canned goods and macaroni and lard and that's when the vegetable art was coming in in 1925 and '26 when I worked

at....

IO But this Louie's Bakery that you mentioned, there was no connection between Keystone and Louie's Bakery.

HFG No.

IO Two different....

HFG Two different outfits altogether.

IO But both Keystone and Louie's delivered products starting out in the Evergreen area.

HFG Yeah, and so did Langendorf.

IO Did they deliver it by gasoline powered vehicles?

HFG Yeah, that's right. Hard tires, didn't have much air in them (laughter).

IO The Keystone that you're talking about, is that the famed Keystone now that's the coffee....?

HFG Exactly.

IO            So they have sort of narrowed their goal.    That's interesting.

HFG           But they were the suppliers to the small country stores where in the town you had these little corner stores and you still have, not too many you still have 'em. This was a big one and we even had gasoline and oil afterwards and being that I had the experience at high school, they'd bring the saws in and you would take 'em to the Valley Saw Works and they'd sharpen 'em. So, heck I didn't have much to do so I'd take a saw and haft, took a vice and I'd file the saw and God, it got too much \_\_\_\_\_ (laughter).

HVG           Well, was that Keystone the same family that had the....?

HFG           Yeah, Elsworth.

HVG           Yeah, that was all the same family.

HFG           Well, they lived with half of their family, wasn't it almost? I guess some of 'em weren't married into the Keystone.

IO            Do you have any recollections of early radio? Like I understand that one of the first what's called

broadcasting stations originated here in San Jose.

HFG That's right.

IO Were you able to listen to that station?

HFG Yeah.

HVG KQW.

HFG KQW.

IO KQW, okay and how did you listen to this station? What kind of radio did you have?

HFG Well, I had assembled lots of parts, you know, through \_\_\_\_\_ and there was an aura and it had three coils like that and I assembled it and then we had a little....

HVG Jackson Radio.

HFG Yeah, yours was a Jackson.

HVG A Jackson Radio, I believe.



HFG        They still make 'em, don't they?

HVG        (Answer inaudible)

HFG        Well, we all had phonographs, I mean practically everybody had phonographs and I still have the \_\_\_\_\_, you know, not the plate, and they have three plates now.

IO         Well, when you listened to the radio, KQW, did you listen with earphones or did you have a speaker that....

HFG        Speaker.

IO         More than one person heard it? You had a separate speaker?

HFG        Yeah.

IO         Several people could be....

HFG        The only time when we had the earphones was at ticker tock(?).

HVG        He had the speakers.

HFG            Yeah.

IO            What's a ticker tock(?)

HFG            It is the same thing as they have on the railroad to commute to the next station or to the next....

IO            Morse Code?

HFG            Morse Code.

IO            Okay.

HFG            (Inaudible remark)    (Laughter)

IO            (Laughter)    When you had these radios, were they battery powered or...?

HFG            Battery powered.

IO            Did you have electricity in your house at that time to power the radio?

HFG            No, we all had batteries, no, Christ no.    I mean wet batteries, 6 volt wet batteries.

HVG (Comment inaudible)

HFG I have a cabinet right out -- well where is it?

HVG I don't know but....

HFG I made a radio cabinet in the woodwork shop and down below here was the battery and in here was this one that I assembled and then I made my grill HFG and put a little cloth behind it, and the thing is -- where is it?

HVG I don't know.

HFG It's still livin'. \_\_\_\_\_ house either, is it?

HVG (Answer inaudible.)

HFG Out in the woodwork shop? (Chuckle)

IO This grill that you have with HFG, that was where the sound came out of? The speaker?

HFG Yeah, that's right. And the speaker was a flat wooden speaker oh about five inches and then about 18 or 20 inches across and the voice came out of that. Now I

can't tell you how the mechanism was there inside because I bought these units and put it together.

IO           Okay, you bought the speaker and you bought the coils. And did you have instructions on how to connect these things up or did you just trial and error....?

HFG          We \_\_\_\_\_ to the man that was Ervin Waley \_\_\_\_\_, you know, out there on....

HVG          Lincoln Avenue.

HFG          Lincoln Avenue, yeah. Across the town. And I'd go there at night and this Ervin Waley was really interesting, and he's the one who got me to get these parts and assemble it and it wasn't bad.

IO           The name Waley, is that the same fella that you were talking about that broke his shoulder?

HFG          His brother.

IO           His brother broke his shoulder.

HFG          No, the one who broke his shoulder is the one that was with me and this Ervin was about 10 years older, Ervin

Waley.

IO            So there were six of them.

HFG          Waley boys.

IO            Okay.

HFG          And the oldest one was Ervin and then came Welden and then came Rodney then came Marcus and then came Clarence and then came \_\_\_\_\_. How many did I get?

IO            Six.    (Laughter)    Did the Waley boys live in this Evergreen area?

HFG          That's right, in back of our place. They lived....  
(Both HFG and IO talking at once, cannot distinguish comments.)

IO            ....a mile and a half down the road?

HFG          That's right and then back about a mile towards the hills on the lane. Well, maybe I told you before that there was just boys in the whole area, didn't I?

IO            Yeah, you mentioned something on the first tape about chopping wood in the creek and there was a lot of boys

and no girls, but I never did understand why you were chopping wood in the creek.

HFG        My mother wanted to keep us away from the influenza if somebody had it and that kept us out of mischief too choppin' that wood, didn't it?

IO         Probably.    When you say you were chopping wood you weren't really in the water in the creek.

HFG        Oh no.

IO         You were just along side of it.

HFG        It's just like here see, like these sycamore trees, they all grew along and these were oak trees and they grew along the creek.

IO         And you chopped the trees down and then chopped them up.

HFG        Yeah.

IO         For firewood?

HFG        That's right, for firewood and cookwood. I mean that's all my mother had before....

IO How did you bring the wood from your creek to the house?

HFG Well, we had a little wagon \_\_\_\_\_, a wheelbarrow. Wheelbarrows in those days weren't too much or a carriage.

IO Or a carriage. Another subject. You were telling me you had three children, two girls and a boy or was it one girl and two boys?

HVG Yes, our children, yes, that's Joyce and then the boy Marvin and then Marilyn.

IO I guess I'm looking for some kind of comparison of a woman bearing a child at that time period compared to today. Did you go to a hospital to have your children or did you have them in your bedroom or....?

HVG No, at the hospital, San Jose Hospital.

HFG Sure and their first was you made the arrangements with the doctor and the doctor made the arrangements with the hospital, or you went down to the hospital, and it was \$75.00 for two weeks.

HVG The first child.... (dog barking at this point)

HFG Dogs don't like you. Better I should let her out?

HVG When Joyce was born, we picked the doctor up and....

HFG That was Marvin.

HVG That was Marvin, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_. We picked the doctor up and went over to San Jose Hospital, took him right with us.

HFG And then I took him home afterwards.

HVG That's when your friend was a nurse there. Josephine Howard, your son and heir (laughter).

HFG When she arrived I could hear her, she was a heavy \_\_\_\_; I could hear her comin' down the hall. "Henry, your son and heir has arrived."

HVG (Comment inaudible. (Laughter)

IO Did you have any problems with childbirth or was it very....?

HVG No no.



IO           Was it easy or difficult?

HVG           No, no problem.

IO           No problem.

HFG           Josephine, I got mad at her, she stopped it. Remember?

HVG           There was no problem.

HFG           \_\_\_\_\_ and had to go all through it again. And then I  
told her, "What a God darn nurse."

IO           What do you mean Josephine stopped it? What does that  
mean?

HFG           Well see, when you got there they -- what do they call it  
-- give you an enema, and she was afraid to give you the  
enema because it would flop all over her, I suppose.  
(Laughter) So it was different than today. Heck I was  
right in the room and everything.

IO           Hold up a minute.

End of Tape 2, Side 1.

Tape 2, Side 2.

IO           Okay you could go right in the room while childbirth?

HFG           You stayed with, not right in the delivery room, but I stayed right in her room until they took her out of that room to the delivery room. See and that's when the doctor said that she stopped the tour coming.

IO           She stopped the tour coming?

HFG           Well, it's not the....

IO           Stopped the childbirth?

HFG           Yeah. Stopped the -- that's it, so many counts, you count so many and....

IO           Between contractions or something like that?

HFG           Isn't that it?

HVG           No.

HFG           Sure. Nowadays I don't know how they do that. They don't let them in, huh?

IO Well, I guess you have lots of places.

HFG Have you children?

IO I have one girl by my first wife but I don't see much of her, she lives in Florida. But that's beside the point.

HFG Yeah, I just asked.

IO We're not talking about me, but you can talk about me later.

HVG This Dr. Halberstone he was well up in his age. That was the last birth that he did and it was an old family in San Jose, Cory family and the Halberstone family.

HFG Old Cory, you must have heard of them through the Museum, C-o-r-y.

HVG She was a teacher at San Jose High.

IO The Doctor's Office at the Museum has a lot -- well not a lot -- but Cory, the name Cory....

HFG \_\_\_\_\_ Meredith Cory and \_\_\_\_\_ was our doctor.

HVG \_\_\_\_\_, I think I had her for Latin in high school.

HFG Yeah, and I had her for Spanish.

IO How long did you stay in the hospital?

HVG Ten days.

IO You stayed there ten days.

HFG No, the first time it was two weeks.

HVG Two weeks and then after that it was ten days.

HFG Yeah.

IO But today like it's two or three days and they throw you out.

HFG \_\_\_\_\_ with Marilyn you wasn't there very long.

HVG No no, but the first two I was.

HFG And I ate my meals there.

IO           Who took care of the farm?

HFG           Well, I just went there on Sundays and....

HVG           When Joyce was born in 1933, the old streetcars that made  
a lot of noise, you know, \_\_\_\_\_ and going almost  
night and day, well maybe not all night....

HFG           Yeah, clickety clankety.

HVG           Yeah, made quite a noise and \_\_\_\_\_

IO           You mean going up to Alum Rock Park?

HVG           Yeah, that's right.

HFG           Yeah and up King Road and to Berryessa and, well they  
didn't come this way too far did they on King.

HVG           No.

HFG           Well \_\_\_\_\_ that system. The tracks are still  
there in a lot of places.

IO           They're just there.

HFG           That's right.   So are the railroad tracks going down Fourth Street, it's still there.

IO           Well, let's change the subject again.  (Laughter)  Unless you have some further \_\_\_\_\_.  On the first tape we talked a little bit about when this area got electricity.  You said something about PG&E paid you to fix the equipment and you said something about a University Electric Company made a bid on something.  I didn't understand what that meant.

HFG           Well, instead of PG&E putting in the lines in \_\_\_\_\_ they subcontracted to people who made bids to put the lines in and there was other companies besides the University Electric.  Pfeiffer Brothers put in a lot of lines, they put in up Aborn Road and there was different small electric companies that did that work, put the poles up and the wires.

IO           After you got electricity did you get a refrigerator or electric refrigerator shortly after that or did you still have ice?  Was the ice brought to you or did you....?

HFG           No, we got a \_\_\_\_\_ refrigerator.  My folks when they got the electricity they didn't get no refrigerator.

HVG I don't think they did but we did, I think, because of PG&E. We never did have an icebox.

HFG Yeah, but her folks in 1928 they got a General Electric with a thing on top here. You've seen 'em? But ours was a \_\_\_\_\_, I think it was.

HVG I don't remember right now.

IO Before you had electric refrigeration, did you have iceboxes?

HFG We didn't but I had a icebox down at the store where I worked. I got 200 lbs. of ice every day.

IO Okay, where did the ice come from?

HFG It was manufactured here at the Crystal Creamery which was where I picked it up but you could get it at the Union House, Union Ice Company and all different places. There was one on McLaughlin Avenue. You know, that was where we'd go \_\_\_\_\_. There was one there but we got it and then the San Jose Creamery you could get your ice. The Crystal Creamery is where I got it.

IO Did they have electric refrigeration there? Did they....?

HFG Yeah, they had electricity and everything, in town. Where I got it was right off of Alum Rock and -- Seventh Street where the Crystal Creamery was?

HVG No.

HFG Seventh and Santa Clara or Alum Rock or Alameda, whatever you want to call it. (Chuckle)

HVG Then it was Santa Clara Street.

HFG Yeah.

HVG Well, we just had a cooler, as I remember. You opened the door and had a place where the air would circulate that came in, you know. That's where we put food.

IO Now you didn't have any way of really cooling anything besides this air?

HVG Not as I remember, no. That's where we had the food, plus we had the old fashioned ice cream where you turned it with the ice and the salt and made ice cream. That's where we'd get it. We didn't have any....



IO           When you \_\_\_\_\_ up to get the ice, how did you pick it up?

HFG           Oh, I just had a Model T truck that belonged to the grocery store and they put it in and I had a ice tong when I got it out here and then I'd cut it in half because my icebox used 100 pounds in one place or the two of them went together. Yeah, just ice tongs.

IO           You didn't put it in any kind of insulated chest or anything so it....

HFG           Oh yeah, an insulated icebox.

IO           No, I mean when you picked it up at the creamery.

HFG           No, I would just put it back there and put a canvas over it.

IO           You didn't really try to protect it from melting too much?

HFG           No. The only thing I didn't like it when it was on that tin bottom so I had something there so it wouldn't slide around if I stopped so it wouldn't come in the front seat with me 'cause it's very slippery on iron.

IO           I want to touch another subject we talked about on the first tape and this was during World War I you said something about you were Hooverized. I wonder if you could elaborate on what that means.

HFG          Well, what I meant was that we were \_\_\_\_\_ different things that we could eat and everybody said that and then they had a song for it.

HVG          Hooverized from Morn to Night.

HFG          Yeah and the regular stuff went with the army and the people over there who they were fighting with, England and France, and the thing was this song and -- 'course we out here were alright because we had the cows, we had the pigs and we had the beef and we had about five acres of vegetable ground; everybody raised their vegetables in those days. And then in the early days, when we were still down at the Chase Ranch, well we had a dairy in there. You hauled the cream to town and the only cheese much that I can remember in those days was the Swiss cheese with the holes in it, huh?

HVG          Yeah.

HFG          How about you? Afterwards we got that big cheddar cheese

when I worked in the store and you would cut the thing and it was real brittle.

IO I have memories from the second World War where gasoline, butter and things like that were rationed. When you were Hooverized, was that the same sort of thing that you were allotted a certain amount of gasoline or a certain amount of butter?

HFG Well at that time the gasoline wasn't too much in the way because I can remember they walked more, you know what I mean, and didn't use the automobile only maybe on Sunday.

IO So gasoline wasn't a big thing?

HFG No.

IO Well, when you were Hooverized what....?

HFG It was food.

IO You were only allowed a certain amount or a certain type of food?

HFG Yeah, and of course you were particular because before you could have white flour or rye flour or beans and the

things that they needed for the army and for the people over there, you were limited to certain things. And now people are grievous, they wanted it and they couldn't have everything like people are today.

IO \_\_\_\_\_ of rationing. (Couldn't hear first part of comment, two voices at once.)

HFG Yeah, that's right.

IO From your viewpoint, being Hooverized here didn't bother you too much because you were self-sustained.

HFG The only thing was the salt.

IO (Laughter)

HFG I'm right.

HVG That's about it.

HFG That was about it with us.

IO You didn't have any problem with being Hooverized?

HFG No.

IO           You were better off than probably most people.

HFG          Yeah. The only thing, going to high school and grammar school there was other people, you know, that would growl. They went every morning to the grocery store to get their breakfast and they were the ones, the town people you'd meet, couldn't get what they wanted.

IO           And this Hoover of the Hooverized, this was the same Hoover who later became President?

HFG          That is correct.

IO           Okay. We talked a little bit about mail service. You said on your earlier tape that there used to be a post office in Evergreen.

HFG          Yeah.

IO           Where was that post office, do you remember?

HFG          Yeah, if you go to Evergreen now -- have you gone through? You know where we have our grange breakfast?

IO           Yes.

HFG All right. Just about two blocks straight up, maybe you seen where Heineman's Garage is?

IO Yes.

HFG Post office was right across the street, that was the blacksmith shop in the early days and across the street was the mercantile store and in the mercantile store was the post office.

IO Okay, so the post office wasn't a separate building; it was in a corner of another building.

HFG That's right.

IO And you said earlier that, I don't remember how you raised it, but your mailbox was in front of Hazel's house or something like that.

HFG Yeah.

IO And was this after or during when there was a post office?

HFG No, after.

HVG        After and it was delivered up that far to the driveway going into our home; there was a line of mailboxes there, he went that far.

IO         So was there some kind of free delivery, shall we say, of mail and the postal person brought mail to these rural mailboxes?

HFG        That's right.

IO         And you went to the mailbox to get your mail.

HFG        That's right.

IO         And you don't recall any time where you had to go to the post office to get your mail?

HFG        The only time we had to go if there was a package or....

HVG        Something he couldn't carry.

HFG        Well, he could take most anything but it was really \_\_\_\_\_ we had to go to the post office except for stamps.

IO         But as far as you can remember, mail usually came to you.

You might have had a mile long drive to your mailboxes at the end of the driveway but basically the mail came to you. You didn't go to the post office.

HFG That's right.

IO In the early 30's there was a kidnapping in San Jose, the Hart Department Store.

HFG That's right.

IO Do you have any recollection firsthand of how you felt or how the community felt?

HFG Well, the community felt all in favor of the Harts but there wasn't too much until the gang got together and went into the courthouse and pulled out Herman and the other one. The one man that got strung up was our gasoline deliverer working for Union Oil Company. Herman, was that his name?

HVG I thought that was his name.

HFG And that's when everybody went down to the James Park, St. James Park, where they -- well we didn't and the next morning when I was delivering prunes to the packing house



on Lincoln Avenue then all of them there saw it and talked about the hanging. But I myself never went to anything like that, I mean if they left me alone I was home and it was no interest of mine to do those things. And we had a very good friend who got shot at the same time and his name was Leonard Remonda on the Kew Ranch and the young fella that they thought did the shooting, but he got free afterwards, was Tony Serpa and the deputies took him out the back way or else he'da been strung up too. That right?

HVG Well that's what I remember.

HFG Yeah because I know from Bart Edwards and the neighbors there. And he was lucky that the deputy took him out of the back. But in those days you knew everybody, you know what I mean? Wasn't like today and it wasn't a gang, it was just these two men who had taken the Hart boy and couldn't get their ransome and they had -- I guess he must have died and then they threw him in the bay on -- what is that first bridge? The San Mateo Bridge, that's right.

IO Dumbarton?

HFG Yeah, Dumbarton.

IO           So the lynching and the Hart kidnapping wasn't a big event in your life.

HFG          No, it was just a grieving for the boy and the family.

IO           Well, you said one of the kidnappers was the person who used to bring gasoline to you?

HFG          That's right.

IO           To you at your home a mile and a half down the road?

HFG          Right here. When we lived on the Snyder place, Hazel and I was living on the Snyder place.

IO           Okay, and the person who brought you gasoline was one of the kidnappers?

HFG          Yessir, he was the driver for the Union Oil Company and he was just a young fella, huh Hazel? Oh, I knew him personally.

IO           Were you surprised that he was involved in something like that?

HFG          Yeah.

IO Did he strike you as being that type?

HFG No. I think it must have happened between the two of them just thought they could make some easy money and thought that Hart had money because he had that clothing store and was one of the biggest clothing stores in town.

IO There just popped another question in my mind, when they delivered gasoline to you did you have a tank in the ground?

HFG No.

IO Well, how much gasoline did they deliver at a time?

HFG Well, we had a hundred gallons and my folks only had fifty gallons. Her father and me had it was account of the tractors, you know, then we wanted more a man. Then afterwards when we had two pumping water -- one ran for 99 days but every Sunday I'd service the \_\_\_\_\_ and sparkplugs and \_\_\_\_\_. But otherwise most of the people had a fifty gallon drum with a faucet on it, not a pump.

IO Hazel, when you were driving to school, where did you get your gasoline for your vehicle?

HVG From my father.

IO So the gasoline was brought to your home, you didn't drive to a gas station like they do today?

HVG No no, I didn't.

IO Did other people? Were there gas stations?

HVG Were there gas stations? I guess there must have been.

HFG Well, like at the mercantile stores, they had stores and garages.

HVG But I never had to buy gas.

HFG And most of 'em had a tank on wheels, three-wheelers, and they'd wheel 'em out and they'd give you gas, but the ones that had them at the store had the glass, five gallon glass up there but it was marked by gallons. They would pump, whatever gasoline you wanted they'd pump into this glass deal, there's one of 'em standing down at the Museum, Associated Oil Company, and then they'd just -- when it got to be full it would flow into your tank.

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

HFG            Yeah, and out in there I had 'em on the wagons.

HVG            Yeah, out in the barnyard area.

HFG            Yeah.

IO             Did you have gasoline tanks on the wagons?

HFG            Yeah.

IO             And the wagons were horse drawn or tractor drawn?

HFG            Well, it was stationary, it was a horse-drawn wagon but used as a gasoline....

IO             Oh okay, you didn't haul the gasoline around?

HFG            No.

IO             It was stationary. Okay. Going back to the first tape that we did, you mentioned on a trip going to Canada that you went from California to Oregon and Oregon to Washington you had to get a visa.

HFG            Yeah.

IO           And I wonder if you could elaborate on that. How did you go about getting a visa? Who did you contact? What kind of visa did you ask for?

HFG          Well, I'd say it was the \_\_\_\_\_ when we got at the line, like a Chamber of Commerce, and I think we had 3A, didn't we, my brother and I?

HVG          Oh.

HFG          But you and I did afterwards, I mean, and then we left it go. On our first trip did we have a credit card? I know we lost about \$90.00 and went broke in Lovelock. Maybe we did have a Standard -- I don't think so.

IO           So you said credit card. Are you using the term Visa?

HFG          No, I'm using the credit cards that are put out by the oil companies, like Union Oil puts out a credit card, Standard.

IO           Okay, there is a credit card that we call a Visa card. Is that what you're talking about?

HFG          No, I'm talking about a gasoline card and never knew of a Visa at that time.

IO           Okay. When you talked about a visa then, this was some kind of a permit that allowed you to cross the boundary between California and Oregon?

HFG          Yeah, I think it was to know how many people came out and how many went the other way. Just like when we come from Canada, yeah that you wasn't smuggling or I don't know.

IO           But were you issued a piece of paper that said you were allowed to travel through?

HFG          That's right.

IO           And did you have to turn this in when you went out of the state? Let's say north to Oregon....

HFG          Well we did afterwards between Canada -- that's the only time I seen it was when we were, my brother and I, were together.

IO           Okay, but when you went from California to Oregon, you got some kind of a paper that allowed you to go to Oregon. I mean, you got to the Washington border, did you have to turn that paper in?

HFG          I'm pretty sure that we turned it in and got another one.

IO           So that on your way back when you went from Washington to Oregon, you got another visa to travel through Oregon again?

HFG          No we didn't. We made the round trip and went through Yellowstone and....

IO           You didn't come back the same way you went?

HFG          That's right.

IO           But did you have to have a visa to go through those other states?

HFG          We didn't have to have one in Nevada and I don't think Herman and I had one in Utah. Oh naturally we weren't in Utah too much, Herman and I wasn't. We were mostly in Idaho.

HVG          They didn't have that required.

HFG          No, but I don't remember having to pay in Yellowstone but we had to get a permit, more of a parking permit. There were no rooms or anything, you know, you carried all your own cooking utensils, there were no campgrounds in 1923. There were places had stores that you could stop there



and put out your tent or just your bed and buy your groceries if you had any money. And that's the same way as it was in Canada. Canada they even came out at night. I was mad at them and I'm still mad at the old Customs because I went to go fishing, I was quite a fisherman, and they made us send our shotgun back and it cost us six and a half dollars to send the shotgun back and I went to fish and I had no fishing pole. So I'm mad at the old Canucks.

IO Well, what happened to your fishing pole?

HFG They took it. We had a box on the running board. You see, we had \_\_\_\_\_. We didn't have no encased automobiles like you have today with \_\_\_\_\_ and doors, and on the running board that's where we carried all our books too. And in the box we had our groceries, you know, our eating material, and then on top of that I had my fishing pole and it was gone. And here's those old Canucks were riding with their Model T with railroad wheels on it.

IO They were riding on the railroad tracks?

HFG Yeah, that's how they go from one small town to the other and they had railroad wheels on the Model T. And I

couldn't stop 'em.

IO           You're saying that they, for some reason, took or confiscated your fishing poles?

HFG          Yeah, see while we were sending the shotgun away. Because we weren't of age they made us send the shotgun home, an old shotgun with a \_\_\_\_\_. But I mean, cost us six and a half when we only left home with \$90.00. How'd you feel when they go and swipe your fishing pole where you could make your meals with?

IO           Okay, you had to be, I take it, a certain minimum age before you could have a gun in Canada, is that what you're saying?

HFG          Yeah, they didn't allow juveniles to have or go across the border with a shotgun.

IO           So they took the shotgun or caused you to send the gun back at the border?

HFG          That's right. We had to go on the United States side to send it.

IO           And while you were doing this, you think somebody took

your fishing pole?

HFG        Sure, my brother didn't, I was the one who was the fisherman (laughter).

IO         Okay. Again on the earlier tape, you talked a little bit about the Food Machinery and there was some doubt as to where its location was, at least in my mind, I was confused. Can you pinpoint where this was located?

HFG        At that time?

IO         Yeah.

HFG        When it was just the....

HVG:       Just the what?

HFG        You know, before it was called Food Machinery. It had three names. Bean Spray Pump Company, Smith Manufacturing Company and Anderson Barngrover. Smith Manufacturing was on Stockton Avenue -- you got it? -- Stockton Avenue and Bean Spray was on Newhall and so was Anderson Barngrover, they were on Julian Street. Both Bean Spray Pump Company and Anderson Barngrover were on Julian Street. And then afterwards they moved to Newhall

which is spread between San Jose and Santa Clara, on Santa -- not Cruz, what's the road? Not Cruz....

IO De La Cruz.

HFG De La Cruz, that's where they are now, right?

IO There is a Food Machinery on Coleman Avenue out in that area.

HFG Yeah that's right. That's them.

IO Okay, well the timeframe that you were talking about for Food Machinery, it wasn't called the Food Machinery, as I see, at that time.

HFG No.

IO It was called these other three names.

HFG Smith Manufacturing Company and John Bean and Anderson, Barngrover.

IO And these were three independent businesses?

HFG That's right.

IO           And then they merged?

HFG          Yes they merged.

IO           And when they merged, that's when it became FMC?

HFG          That's right.     Anderson, Barngrover was more of  
manufacturer of cannery equipment and dippers and  
equipment for on the ranch, and Smith Manufacturing  
Company was the same way on cars and tracks that you used  
before you had bins and other equipment for the sulphur  
house, the cars and the wheels were made in their  
foundry.

IO           Okay, so the reason that we got into that conversation  
before was because you were buying equipment from these  
people?

HFG          That is correct and you practically assembled it  
yourself. Just like when you built a house in the early  
days, they built the form and you went in the creek, like  
here, and mixed the gravel and dirt and poured it in  
there and didn't put any rebar in there. And this house  
built in 1906 is just as solid as one that's got a ton of  
rebar in it because they did not move the dirt. That's  
why we got \_\_\_\_\_ there and we had 15 back here.

Well, we did most of it afterwards for the cellar, you know, 'cause you almost had a cellar because that distance, you know, distance to the....

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

IO I want to cover another subject that is very confused in my mind and that is, who was involved in selling land to who to create what is now The Villages? Can you go over that again?

HFG Yeah, there were a number of companies -- see, how the whole thing started that we got with the companies was they had a sort of package together and were gonna put the -- which is now over at Santa Cruz -- the California University affiliated with the one in Berkeley and they put this package together of about 1200 acres and it fell through because the politics was better over at Santa Cruz and they put it into the Santa Cruz University of California at Santa Cruz, with the \_\_\_\_\_. And so they had this package.

IO They, the University of California?

HFG No no, the real estate people had this package made up to sell it to the University of California. You got it now?

I mean, the real estate group that were together, and you know how they are. Who were the two main ones? It was him down there -- well, it was supposed to be the Palo Alto Development Company first. Do you remember?

HVG Oh oh, that sounds familiar, Palo Alto.

HFG Palo Alto Development Company. When these people had the packet made with us -- do you understand now? And then the Palo Alto Development Company gave it up and that's when Guy F. Atkinson, a pretty good construction man, Guy F. Atkinson, picked it up and -- who was the \_\_\_\_\_? Anyway, then that's how we got (sound of something being dropped) Did you cut yourself?

IO Was this package put together to create this housing development that we now call The Villages or was it \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG That's right. After it had been put together to sell to the University of California.

IO Well, was the original intent to create a new campus for the University of California?

HFG Well that's what they were trying to do, yes. Isn't that

right, Hazel?

HVG        It guess that was the intention probably.

HFG        The intent, yeah, by the real estate people and there was all kinds of 'em.

IO         So the original idea of creating this package was not to make a new housing development?

HFG        No.

IO         It was gonna be a new campus.

HFG        Yeah, and the campus went over to Santa Cruz. And they were competing over here at Almaden too -- what was his name? I'm ascares I'd get in trouble. There were different dealers and wheelers that were tryin' to get the college campus -- what was that man's name? Big shot. And then when this packet was together then they went to the Palo Alto and that went through but then Guy F. Atkinson, he's the one who picked it up and got it started and developing, the whole package.

IO         Okay, how many different individual landowners contributed or furnished land to this 1200 acres you're



talking about? There was yourself and how many acres did you....?

HFG Our family contributed 160 acres. Brothers contributed 10 acres.

IO Brothers is the name of a family?

HFG That's right, Brothers was the name of a family, of an old one. And then there was Mancuso with 50 acres; and then at that time Cribari had all of -- what would you say about, with the hills and all, about 600 acres? And then there was Herman Nelson with 60 acres. How many different people did I mention?

HVG About three.

IO I don't recall you saying anything about the Harts.

HFG No, that was the whole package; that was Hart, Gerdtz and....

HVG 160 altogether.

HFG Yeah, Hart, Gerdtz and Snyder.

IO Well Gerdt's didn't put in 160.

HFG No, he put in 30. (Laughter)

HVG Added up together the family put in 160 acres.

HFG And 60 was put in between Aunt Gertie and.... Fifty acres was Hart, 50 and 40 is 90....

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

HFG No, I mean it works out at about -- here he wants it separated.

HVG Yeah.

IO Well not down to the last detail but before it was confusing in my mind. I was just trying to break it down in more detail.

HFG Yeah, now is it clear to you?

IO It's clearer.

HFG I mean what is not clear? I mean, in other words we should itemize what Hazel and I had and what the Hart

Ranch was....

HVG Well I'd say Gerdt's and Hart was 160, is that what you're saying?

HFG And Snyder.

HVG Oh, and Snyder.

IO You can add up these numbers from the recording after, not now. But I don't recall your saying anything about Cribari. Who....

HFG Oh, Cribari had the biggest portion. Sure it must have been at least....

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

HFG Yeah, all the vineyards and that hill and clear over to \_\_\_\_\_.

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

IO Are we still talking about 1200 acres? Or are we just diddling now?

HFG No, still what is in the 1200 acres, that's what we're talking about.

IO Well Hazel had added up something like 900.

HVG Well I had 600, let's see, I started out 160 acres; that's Hart, Gerdtz, Snyder and altogether 160. Okay that's 160 and Mancuso 50, Brothers 10 and....

HFG Henry Nelson.

HVG Did I get Mancuso?

HFG Yeah, you got Mancuso but you didn't get Henry Nelson.

HVG Nelson 66, 60?

HFG Yeah 60.

HVG And 600 is Cribari.

HFG No, it has to be more because beyond that all up to the 1200 acres is Cribari. Actually it's not Cribari, most of that was Bank of America but Cribari has the name on it. Well there was 80 acres right next to us, that was the -- ah these banks going broke, I mean building and

loan. Keep going?

(End of Tape 2, Side 2)

(Tape 3, Side 1)

IO           On line now. About \_\_\_\_\_ Mancuso \_\_\_\_\_  
             eight or nine families \_\_\_\_\_

HFG           And banks and building and loan.

IO           So they all sold this land eventually to what was called  
             the name Palo Alto Development Company?

HFG           No, they were just figuring on the package. To Guy F.  
             Atkinson is the one who bought this whole package and  
             then called it The Villages.

IO           And how do you spell this man's name then?

HVG           Atkinson.

IO           Atkinson?

HFG           Atkinson.

HVG           Guy.

IO            Guy Atkinson.

HFG           Guy Atkinson.

HVG           G-u-y would be Guy, F.

HFG           The big construction guy.

HVG           A-t-k-i-n-s-o-n.

HFG           See, he was the one who financed the whole deal. Do you  
want to know the builder?

IO            No, not particularly. If you know him.

HFG           Well, I should have it. Right now I can't get the name.

HVG           Well all I've got in my head is Guy F. Atkinson so....

HFG           No, he was the owner. And then they did sell too. But  
he started in with (sound of pages turning). Well  
that's all right, we'll tell you that later.

HVG           It wasn't any Palo Alto man, was it?

HFG No, Palo Alto was just an investment company.

IO I think we've covered that subject unless you have some more to contribute. I don't want to shut you off while you're going but....

HVG No, we're not going anywhere (laughter).

HFG No, shut it off.

IO (Coughing) I want to ask you some more information. You said that your father was in the beer bottling business and it was the Gerdt's brothers. So your father had at least one brother or multiple brothers?

HFG One brother.

IO And they were in this business together.

HFG That's right.

IO And this business was on the corner, or near the corner of Fourth and Louis? Do you know if this street Louis is still in existence?

HFG No.

IO Is it called something else today?

HFG No, they still own it now, I think, Dole Pineapple Company. That's where they had their pear shed but they are out of business. But I can tell you that I'd go in from Third Street into the packing house and here's where I'd deliver my apricots and right back here....

IO What's that got to do with the beer bottling?

HFG Oh. The beer business went belly up.

IO Yeah, but what I'm trying to pin down is where it was located.

HFG Yeah, that's where it was located where the Dole Pineapple have their pear shed, is right up on top of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Louis Street.

IO Is it still there today?

HFG Yeah, still there today.

IO Dole Packing is still there?

HFG Yeah.



IO           And it's on the corner, well it's on Fourth Street, or  
              it's on Santa Clara Street? What's another cross street?

HFG          In other words Fourth Street is practically gone with the  
              railroad track, it's between Third and Fifth.

HVG          South? Okay.

HFG          There was all that Martha, Margaret....

HVG          And Market.

HFG          And Keyes Street and then came Martha.

HVG          In other words the south part of San Jose.

HFG          Yeah, that's right.

IO           Okay. I know where Keyes is and I know where Martha is.

HFG          All right, it's north of Keyes. Do you know where Martha  
              is?

IO           Yes.

HFG          Do you know where Margaret is?

IO           No.

HFG          Do you know where Virginia is?

IO           Yes.

HFG          Well, that's where it is at Sixth and -- well, they were on the other side of Keyes Jeweler at one time. The Continental Can Company was in between. Now I shouldn't mention those, should I?

IO          Sure, whatever. When you say Continental Can, I picture a place on the corner of called Berryessa Road and Seventeenth....

HFG          Oh no, at Seventh and Hedding.

IO          Okay Hedding.

HFG          But American Can was the one who was there in the first place. American Can had a chute goin' into a firing grade. It started off....

IO          Are you saying American Can?

HFG          American Can.

IO           And Continental Can, are those two names interchangeable?

HFG          No, only Continental Can was on Seventh and Hedding or Taylor, in that area. And this American Can was right next to Keyes Street and they had a chute goin' into Barn & Gray which first it was Barn & Gray Cannery. Oh, first it was Pyle and then Barn & Gray and then Hawaiian Pineapple and then Dole.

HVG          That's north of Keyes Street, right?

HFG          Yeah.

IO           Okay, I got the general area. Along with this beer bottling business, you said earlier that the beer came in 250 gallon barrels.

HFG          Puncheons, barrels, yeah.

IO           Puncheons. How did you get those puncheons from the railroad to the bottling?

HFG          I believe they rolled 'em.

IO           They rolled them?

HFG           How else would you do it?

IO            I don't know, that's why I'm asking. (Laughter)

HFG           Well, I baled hay when I was a kid, five wire, five wires on that bale and eight of those bales made a ton, they averaged a ton, and I could handle those, if eight of 'em was 250 pounds to a bale, wouldn't I, to make you a thousand pounds, huh? (Figuring here) They made a ton so 8 times 2 is 1600 so then you got, there's your ton. I could take that bale and roll it and kneel it and go three high, but when it came to these little 90 pound I had to lift 'em. It was harder for me so to roll a barrel that size you could either take a rope and tie it to there and put the rope underneath here and pull it the other way. I hauled a tank from Santa Rosa that had a 3000 gallon wooden tank with a head and a bottom to it and there was about six Mexicans and we had a rope pulling it on but had a rope so it would stop if it got here, all I got on this side was a \_\_\_\_\_, and we handled it. We didn't have no forklifts in those days; we had horses.

IO            The container must have come on a flat car or something.

HFG           That's right.

IO           And do you remember how you got it off the flat car onto the ground?

HFG          Man, I was only two years old (laughter).

IO           Well, you were just describing how you could roll it.

HFG          Yeah, that's how I imagined they did it.

IO           Oh, that's how you imagined they did it.

HFG          Yeah, not that I seen it.

HVG          (Comment inaudible.)

HFG          (Laughter) Gee! He went broke in, what? 1908 wasn't it? And I was born '06.

IO           I thought that you had been sort of involved with your father in the business but that's not really so.

HFG          No, the whole thing is of what he told me and what my uncle told me and they had -- now this is kinda confusing -- they had a gentleman working for them that we called "Little Nick Gerdts" and I always thought he was related but no, no relation at all but the same name. And the

three of 'em is the ones that ran the bottling works and I told you there was 21 saloons from First Street where he was to, he called it Hacienda, and everybody called it New Almaden.

IO           Now wait a minute, you said First Street; you said he was on Fourth Street. Was he on First Street or Fourth Street?

HFG          Well, but the saloons were on Monterey Road which was a continuation of First and you always took the mileage not from the bottling works but from the town wherever you take the outside or the.... He only went broke five times and always came out of it, my father, but you want my history so what's the difference.

IO           Yeah, whatever you can contribute about this bottling. I think it's kind of interesting. I never knew there was such a business in San Jose before I started talking to you about it.

HFG          Oh, I have the bottles of Sherk & Company, Batt & Company and for Corallon(?) and these that I mentioned now those were all bottling companies. They either bottled Ranier or Acme or Wielands or Fredricksburg; there was Fredricksburg, that was a brewery and Old Joe Steam Beer

was a brewery and Fredricksburg was sold to Wieland and then to Falstaff, but that was the same building. Got me? And Old Joe Steam Beer was where St. Claire Hotel is and I can remember that.

IO           Okay, tell me about that.

HFG          In which way? That you could go there with a tin can or your lunchbox, instead of having a thermos bottle you had a can with a lid on it and you went there and they opened the spigot....

IO           Now this was Joe's Brewery was where St. Claire Hotel is now?

HFG          Hotel is now.

IO           And that was Joe's Brewery.

HFG          Old Joe's Steam Beer.

HVG          Steam Beer.

HFG          Yeah, steam beer. My Dad said, "And this here beer what he had was draft beer", which is draft beer's the same as steam beer and he said never to drink this lager beer

which is all you have today because it was fortified and don't drink any wine unless it was matured over two years and you haven't got a wine today that -- Mirassou's put it through in 48 hours and \_\_\_\_\_ and everybody does. But in those days you had to leave it in a barrel or a keg or tank for two years before you even sampled it. Go ahead.

IO           When this Joe's Brewery, or maybe simultaneously, if there was breweries in town, why did your father go to Stockton to get beer? Do you know that?

HFG          Yeah, I think it would be the same reason as not only William D. Tarkington(?), another one in Michigan, you have to have competition. If you haven't got competition and they have a better product, if you got a better product and you can come into -- that would be it. Who he bought it from, Simal, happened to have that route going up to New Almaden and Long Barn and back again.

IO           Is Long Barn called something else today?

HFG          No, it's still Long Barn, it's above Saratoga; it's called the Long Barn Bridge.

HVG          It would be up above a....



HFG           Saratoga, going towards Big Basin.

HVG           Going up to the -- what's the road that goes through?  
Skyline?

IO            To Long Barn, was this like with a horse and wagon?

HFG           There, that's right. Did I show you the picture?

IO            No, but that's okay.

HFG           Go and get it on the bed.

IO            He delivered it in bottles.

HFG           In bottles, that's right.

IO            Not in kegs.

HFG           No, in bottles. See he did the bottling.

IO            Yeah, but earlier in this conversation you said it was  
draft beer and to me draft beer is something you get out  
of a keg; it's not bottled beer.

HFG           Well he bottled it.

IO But it was still what you call draft beer.

HFG Yeah, or steam beer.

IO And you delivered it in cases of bottles, not in aluminum kegs or wooden kegs.

HFG No or in six-pack. It was a wooden box like a big trunk only made out of wood. (Coughing)

IO Did he try to keep the beer cold while he was delivering it or was that a problem? You weren't concerned. (Coughing)

HFG No, it didn't seem to be a problem because it wasn't taken care of when it was on the railroad tracks, did it?

IO I would guess not.

HFG No, there was no coverage or anything.

(To Hazel) It's in the big black one.

And see, when he came back from Alaska, which they had lost their mine or their quarry or whatever it was, and then he worked for the....

There it is (referring to the picture). Now I'm not \_\_\_\_\_. And that is a good picture, that's my father

and here's the bottling works, there's the horses and there's the rig, yeah. I had a younger brother \_\_\_\_\_ . Isn't that picture in there, Hazel? The picture of us? I thought it was, I haven't got it glued in somehow.

IO It was like an assembly line, did the bottles come along? Did they get washed and sterilized and then filled automatically and capped or what was....?

HFG Yeah, but it was a circular, like these milking machines. You've seen these milk cappers? The circular? This was a round one, round capper, and I believe they placed 'em under the filler.

IO By hand.

HFG By hand. But there was no capper, there was a porcelain cap with a wire and a washer.

IO I know what you mean. Every time the bottle came back, he had to put a new washer on?

HFG Yeah, that I can remember.

IO Every filling got a new rubber seal.

HFG        And it was all, had a washer, and I know there was a steam vat with it -- boiler, I can remember that. You know, kids will never forget a big old steam boiler there. I think that one was fed by coals, in 1900? Or do you think they had oil then?

IO         I would doubt, they could have had oil but I don't know what they had out here. I know there was coal available.

HFG        Yeah, and that's how they did a lot in those days was with coal on boilers.

IO         So they physically or manually threw coal into the fire? I guess they had to take the ashes out by hand?

HFG        Do it with a shovel, yeah.

IO         And do you know what they did with the ashes?

HFG        Well I guess they dumped 'em out. I know I fell into 'em and I got burned, that's what they tell me. I got my whole face burned. It was off of the porch and had a wire around it and I fell into it. That's what they tell me. Well in those days you didn't have these God-darned environmentalists barking up your throat and gettin' everybody confused lookin' to gettin' 'em in jail. Well

what did they do with the pulp? The breweries -- now I'm going before you -- in washing those tanks and everything they had some bad -- well I don't think they had a big sewage system in that time at 1900. I bet they ran it right in the Coyote Creek. What do you think?

IO I think that's a strong possibility.

HFG Here, when I'm going to high school there's only 25,000 people in the City of San Jose and that's 1920, I mean '21 to '25.

IO Well, part of what prompted my question, back East when we heated our house in the wintertime, we heated with coal and we took the ashes. And what we did with the ashes was put 'em on the driveway and it sort of made a paved surface eventually. Now I wonder if they did anything like that?

HFG Oh they naturally did because in the early days they didn't throw anything away, not even the squeal of a pig (laughter). By golly, I was there as a little kid when we killed a pig and there I was, stirring that blood to make blood sausage. I can still remember that and I caught heck when I stopped stirring. And nowadays look at what they have to have to get rid of all our waste.

Jesus Christ!

IO           It's a big problem today.

HFG           Isn't it. Boy, you tellin' me. You know I'm just thinkin' what the people will do. Up here at The Villages -- well we had a tractor, a bulldozer, and at one time like the water company and those would come by and they'd dig us a big trench. And when somebody moved into it the first time, boy you ought to see the dishes and bottles. Some days sometimes when you'd go down there, boy, you'd think you'd get a gold mine, huh?

IO           I guess so. Do you have any concept or did your father and uncle bottle beer every day or five days a week or two days a week?

HFG           Oh I guess they bottled it as long as they could get rid of it because they had no storage besides the warehouse they had there and havin' 21 saloons -- that didn't include the ones that went up towards Saratoga and Long Barn. But that was his route because afterwards, in a buggy, he'd go around on Sunday and try to collect some of that money and there wasn't any because she didn't get paid. There were a lot of ladies who ran the saloons and bars because I seen 'em, I mean I was only a little

rascal, but I don't remember of them ever gettin' any money afterwards. But here's the good thing, I mean, that's always in my mind. We were livin' where Eastridge is now and either real estate or out of the office and they came out and picked us up and took us to town and gave us a meal because his property, 40 acres, ran from Almaden Road over the top of the hill to -- what is the one runs to Tully? -- and up here one place it made a jog and there was maybe a half an acre or so, and so with that meal and the trip to town with us he signed that piece over to the people who bought it or the real estate company. And there was no money or no argument or nothin'. We got a good meal out of it and a trip to San Jose in a horse and surrey.

IO           So you say "they" took you on this trip. Who is "they"?

HFG          The real estate or the -- when I do business I don't even like a....

HVG          Title company.

HFG          Title company. Gosh darn, it took me an hour to get it.

HVG          Oh, a title company?

HFG        The title company. Today you have to wait 30 days to go through your papers before you can make a settlement, isn't that right?

IO        Yeah, could be that long. I'm confused again. When you used to live where Eastridge is now, this is the same time as your father had the bottling?

HFG        No, after he went broke.

IO        Okay, this was after the bottling.

HFG        That's right.

IO        And the reason the escrow people, or whatever they were, were taking you for these rides and giving you a meal was because your father was buying some land?

HFG        No.

IO        He was selling some land.

HFG        No no, the land was left there and when they surveyed it, it belonged to him.

IO        Him your father?



HFG        My father, yeah.

IO         After they surveyed it....

HFG        Then they found this piece that was not in the acreage, that was beyond the acreage, and so he just signed that over to 'em. And I was just a little rascal but I remember all of that, and today, who-o-o-o! They get 14 lawyers there and everybody gets....

IO         He signed it over, he your father signed it over to the real estate people?

HFG        Either the real estate or title or whoever was doing the business.

IO         But your father was relinquishing his right to this land to somebody else?

HFG        Yeah.

IO         And they were hauling your family around.

HFG        No, they came out and picked us up and took us to town to the court house where he signed the papers.

IO Oh, to sign the papers, okay. So this was maybe a one or two time thing, it didn't go on for two or three months?

HFG Oh no, it was just one trip into town (laughter) and a free meal.

IO And then when your father no longer owned that land, he moved down to this area?

HFG Yeah. No, in the first place he moved from this property that I'm talking to, to the bottling works and then from the bottling works he was to here. And in the meantime, somebody surveyed it; this was the elapsed time of about four years.

IO I thought you said that we were talking about this land that your father was signing away that he was out of the bottling business at that time.

HFG That's right.

IO So he didn't have the bottling business and he didn't have that land so where did you live?

HFG Right where Eastridge is now.

IO But I thought you said that's where he was getting rid of the land.

HFG No no, he was gettin' rid of the piece of land that he had 40 acres from the Almaden Road to the McKean Road and then he sold this and went into the bottling business.

IO I thought you said that he was out of the bottling business.

HFG When they came, yes, four years later. When somebody surveyed this four years after -- he had moved from this four acres -- somebody surveyed it and his name was on that piece of property which was beyond the amount of acres that was in the sale.

IO So your father wasn't gettin' rid of all his land, just this overlooked piece of land.

HFG He had gotten rid of the whole thing and went into the bottling works and then went out here and rented the 400 acres here, and this was an elapsed time of four years that here they come and said that he still owned that little piece of ground.

IO Oh, now I'm beginning to get the picture.

HFG        See, he had this 40 acres before he got married. Then he got married and then he sold that and went into the bottling works. And then when the mine quit -- it isn't like today you first get your money -- there was no money, nobody financing anybody 'cause that mine shut up.

IO        The Almaden Mine, is that it?

HFG        The Almaden Mine, yeah. He called it the Hacienda Mine but people call it today the New Almaden. And it quit and when it quit then nobody drank any beer.

IO        Okay so the stopping of the processing of the mercury from Almaden Mine sort of put your father out of the bottling business.

HFG        That's right.

IO        Okay, I got a complete explanation out of him (chuckle).

HFG        And then after all this time, at least four or five years, somebody came along and bought that place or had it surveyed or they were gonna do something with it. And then they found that there was a little piece there that belonged to a man named Nick Gerdts.

IO           Pheew.

HFG          I got you all confused.

IO           I'm much better now.

HFG          All right.

HVG          What's confusing about it is that you talked about 400 acres over here and then you say somethin' about over here by Tully Road.

HFG          (Laughter) Well you should stop me trying. (IO laughing here.)

HVG          And then you say the bottling works.

IO           Another thing I want to make sure in my own mind now is we were talking about the flea market on Berryessa Road and there was a fella by the name of George Bumb.

HFG          That's right and he still owns it.

IO           He owns all that property?

HFG          Yeah, and he owns all over here. How many acres?

HVG I don't know how many acres.

HFG Right over the top here and he always wanted to put a garbage dump. And I say maybe he'll do it and everybody says no.

IO Is George Bumb somebody who lives in this area? Or do you know him from living in this neighborhood?

HFG He lives in San Jose.

HVG Now?

HFG Now and if I'm gettin' you confused stop me and I'll try to explain it. And this man George Bumb his father had the Grandma cookie and cake outfit with a truck like a small van, you know, in those days either a Model T, Chevrolet or whatever it was, and on Sundays or nights he would have this thing with George and a couple of daughters and two boys, the one that's crippled now, in this cookie wagon and he'd -- the father of George, now got me right?, the father of George -- would have this route and he'd be in there with his wife, and well my mother would be there too and my father and my uncle, three of 'em, would play pinocle. So I knew George Bumb when he was just big enough to crawl into that cookie

wagon and out of it and now he was in the business of tearing buildings down and moving the rubbish away and then that's how he got ahold of where he is.

IO I can remember when the flea market used to be a big carton of used material which might be what you're talking about. It's not that way anymore.

HFG What is it? I haven't been out there. The other one is takin' it over here on Capital Expressway.

IO Well, there is another flea market down there but what I know as the Berryessa Flea Market is a thriving business; I mean it's huge. And that's the place that George Bumb used to put his reclaimed or used building material?

HFG No no, he went from that building material at the same time and started this flea market, at the same time.

IO It was sort of a transition.

HFG Yeah, but I don't think the flea market and his trucking was ever combined. I don't think so. In the trucking business he was with a fellow by the name of \_\_\_\_\_. Go ahead, excuse me.

IO George Bumb, where did he live relative to you? I mean, did you go to school with him or anything like that?

HFG No no. My biggest deal was through his father and mother, you know that I knew 'em well on account of he delivered to that store that I....

IO Your store down there?

HFG That I worked and he was a German descent, and I guess through the Herman Sons, I used to have to take my mother and father to the Herman Sons and New Germanians and that's how I got acquainted with them.

IO The Bumb family used to have a bakery and they made cookies?

HFG No no, he just delivered Grandma's....

IO Oh, he didn't cook 'em.

HFG No no.

IO He just picked 'em up somewhere and delivered 'em.

HFG Just like today when you buy your Grandma's or Grandpa's



cookies, they're made where? Back East or in Oakland.

IO           So what time frame are we talking about when the Bumb family was involved in delivering these cookies?

HVG           Where were you going?

HFG           I was going to night school when she was....

HVG           We were in night school in 1920's.

HFG           I'd say 1926 to about 19 -- Depression days? Well, then I'd see him off and on but I mean never no big friendship, you know what I mean?

HVG           '27, '28, '29 along in there.

HFG           Yeah. That's when the.... Go ahead.

IO           Your families knew each other?

HFG           Yeah, you bet.

IO           Okay, and George Bumb he now owns all that land plus some other land around here somewhere?

HFG That's right. Do you know him?

IO I've never heard the name until you mentioned it.

HFG Oh.

HVG Highland Drive, George Bumb Highland Drive. That sounds like Bumb.

HFG Look at the Bumb you got in there with his wife.

HVG I don't know if it's in there, and their children, the Bumbs (the rest of comment inaudible).

IO \_\_\_\_\_. This was at the time that you and Hazel, I guess, were getting together or you had already gotten married, not yet?

HVG '32.

HFG '32 is when we got married.

IO What are your recollections of this Depression era? Today do you see any similarities to what we're going through today as to what was going on then?

HFG Well, it was different altogether.

HVG Now we've got so many nationalities.

HFG And it's the money that you have to pay for things and at that time the money wasn't there. You didn't get a dollar an hour, you was lucky to get 35 or 50 cents an hour. And then when I worked in the hay press you got a dollar a day with the found, you know.

IO When you worked on the hay press was this during the Depression time?

HFG No, before, it was in 19....

HVG Well the wages weren't high.

HFG Yeah, it was the wages weren't high. But I mean, during the Depression days then they were way down to two bits, but I was farming then in '29.

IO So again, being a farmer the Depression or the bad times, the Stock Market crash, had no real effect on you in your mode of living.

HFG No because I wasn't in the Stock Market, didn't have any

money to put it in there so how can you get blood out of a turnip?

IO But you don't have any memories of people standing in soup lines or anything like that? Or you never did anything like that?

HFG No, I should do it now though (laughter). But I'm gonna tell you one thing, when I rented the 60 acres which belonged to her father but her and I -- I guess we were just startin' to go together -- and so my father had belonged to the Sunsweet; at that time it was called the California Prune and Apricot Association and he joined in '16 and I believe her father did about the same thing. So in 1929, '27, no it was in 1927 was when I rented, and 1928 old Corkendahl ran away with the money and they went belly up, all went broke the Prune and Apricot Association.

IO This was the same guy that ran away with the \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG Yeah, Corkendahl, had I told you that before?

IO You touched on it.

HFG All right, that's the same man.

HVG You're talking about the man at Sunsweet?

HFG Yeah, and afterwards then when they sold her father says, "Well, you have the privilege, your half, we'll sack a hundred sacks of prunes, you get fifty and I get fifty but I want mine to take to the Association." And being that my father belonged to the Association, I said, "Okay, I'll ship mine there too." But maybe I told you before that a friend of mine, Charley Davel(?), he got three cents a pound for his prunes through either Rosenberg or Calpack or one of those dealers.

HVG And of course KBY was \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG Corkendahl.

HVG No, \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG Yeah, anyway so you know what I got a ton? I got \$28.00 and what is that!

IO I have trouble comparing....

HFG A ton is 2000 pounds.

IO            Okay.

(Long pause.)

HFG           But I want mine to take to the Association, and being that my father belonged to the Association I said, "Okay, I'll ship mine there too." But maybe I told you before that a friend of mine, Charley Davel, he got three cents a pound for his prunes through either Rosenberg or Calpack or one of those dealers.

HVG           And of course KBY was \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG           Corkendahl.

HVG           No, \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG           Yeah, anyway so you know what I got a ton? I got \$28.00 and what is that!

IO            I have trouble comparing....

HFG           A ton is 2000.

IO            Okay.

Note: All of the above conversation after the long pause which I noted is a repeat of the conversation transcribed just before the pause. This must be due to a glitch in the recording.

End of Tape 3, Side 1.

IO           Six.

HFG           What do you call him? The guy that went to \_\_\_\_\_,  
what was his name?

HVG           That went with you? \_\_\_\_\_.

HFG           No, you was with me and Bill Smothers \_\_\_\_\_  
------. He had the opening speech and then  
I fought for the other side. (Remainder of comment  
inaudible.)

IO           We were talking about Depression times and I've come to  
believe that during the war, World War I, there was a lot  
of fruit that was shipped out of this area to feed the  
troops overseas and so forth. That was sort of a boom  
time, there was a lot of money.

HFG           Yeah.

IO           Do you support that opinion?

HFG          You in World War I now?

IO           Yeah.

HFG          Yeah, I support it because....

IO           No, I don't mean that you supported the war. I mean do  
you....

HFG          No no, I mean I support what you were saying.

IO           Okay, this was boom times around here.

HFG          Sure, land went up and everything.

IO           Did your family benefit from this?

HFG          No, well maybe your father and the apricots. Well, prune  
prices were good.

IO           Well, you were talking a little bit ago about three cents  
a pound and you got about a penny and a half.

HFG          Yeah, well that was account of that they went bankrupt.





HVG Well I don't think I can pay more money in our natural life. Nowadays they have to have \_\_\_\_\_.

IO What could you do for entertainment?

HVG We used to go to shows and nowadays you go to a show and you can't hear what's goin' on because there's too much talking.

IO When you say show you mean the movies?

HVG The movies, yeah. We used to go to....

HFG Saturday night.

HVG Saturday night movie. We'd go in town.

IO Did you ever go to something called Vaudeville before the movies?

HFG Oh yeah, \_\_\_\_\_.

HVG \_\_\_\_\_ always did, yeah.

HFG Cogenville, Schumannheink, that's where I would go with my mother. (HVG laughing) Cogenville and....

HVG           The thing is, my mother and I used to go....

HFG           And Johnson, oh and then "I hate to get up in the morning", Harry Lauder. Vaudeville was my main deal right today; I like it but you don't get it.

IO            It's all on TV now.

HFG           Do you remember those names when I said Cogenville?

IO            No, some of those names I recognize.

HFG           I bet Schumannheink.

IO            Well I can remember, back East I can remember going to the theater or the movies and half of the show was vaudeville with people doing acts on the stage and the other half was a movie and I'm 20 years younger than you so you must have more vivid memories of that time, I mean, than I do.

HFG           Yeah, that's right

IO            And I would imagine that you can remember when talking movies came in and silent movies.

HFG        Yeah, that's right, that was good.

IO         Silent movies was good?

HFG        Yeah because they learned you how to read. (IO Laughs here.) Sure.

HVG        My mother used to like to go to see that singer she liked.

HFG        Who my mother?

HVG        No my mother.

HFG        My mother was Schumannheink.

HVG        Schumannheink and, I can't think of her name.

HFG        My father was the one who was great on vaudeville.

HVG        My mother used to sit on an old \_\_\_\_\_ behind the heater, down on the floor in the corner behind the heater with a pile of books \_\_\_\_\_ (remainder of comment inaudible).

IO         And where did you get these books from, the library?

HVG Well, they were bought or either....

IO Were these like hard-backed books or like magazines?

HVG No, they weren't like magazines.

HVG Either bought them at the store or....

IO When Henry took you out on a date before you got married,  
I sort of got the impression sometimes you went to the  
movies?

HVG Right.

IO And sometimes you did other things?

HVG Well they had dances down here at the school at San Jose  
High, I think.

HFG Yeah, we went to the dances.

HVG They had them about once a month.

HFG Yeah, Saturday once a month, no, once a week we'd  
generally, I'd meet her, that was about it, huh?

HVG        Yeah.

HFG        On Saturday.

IO         What do you mean you met her? What does that mean?

HFG        Meet her?

IO         Yeah.

HFG        Well, go down and take her out.

IO         Went down to her house and picked her up?

HFG        Yeah, that's right.

HVG        (Comment inaudible.)

HFG        Yeah, picked her up and we'd go out to either a movie,  
and I'd go to sleep because I'd worked all that week and  
maybe I had to go and get a haircut that Saturday night  
and then we'd go to a movie. And then we'd go in to  
dances.

HVG        Yeah, we went to them or the....

HFG        And then in the summer Hazel would be with her mother over at Capitola and that would be goin' on the wharf, you know, or pier, whatever you want to call it.

IO         Boardwalk?

HFG        Yeah and then swim out in the ocean, they always had a float out there; now they haven't got a float \_\_\_\_\_. But I enjoyed swimming and then my folks, even when we got our first set of tires the three families, John Gerdts, and pretty near every Sunday or a weekend we'd go on a trip like to Salinas. It took a day to go over to Capitola and Santa Cruz. We would go to Big Basin and Boulder Creek and \_\_\_\_\_.

IO         Did you go by horse and buggy or by car?

HFG        No, by car.

IO         When you say the three families, what three families?

HFG        It was John Gerdts, who was partners with my dad in the bottling works, and his sister who was married to Henry Gable.

IO         Okay that was John Gerdts, Nicholas Gerdts and Hannah

Gable, she was Hannah Gerdts Gable.

HVG \_\_\_\_\_, her married name was Gable.

HFG Got me?

IO No.

HFG She was the sister to my father and my uncle and her name was Gerdts, her maiden name was Gerdts.

IO Okay, those are the three families you're talking about.

HFG The three families, yeah.

IO The Harts were not one of these three?

HFG No no, they weren't even known.

HVG His father and his uncle and aunt. \_\_\_\_\_

IO And how many people in these three families?

HFG There were four in my family, and in the John Gerdts family was five, and in the Gable family was four.



IO           Okay, and when you went on these trips did you go in one automobile or three automobiles?

HFG         Usually in three or in two and then when we got that Model B then we had 'em all beat, the Studebaker, the Hupmobile and my Dad had an Elgin, first a Chevrolet and then an Elgin.

IO           I think you talked about an Elgin earlier; the Elgin had an \_\_\_\_\_ and a clock.

HFG         Yeah.

IO           Well when you went on these trips, these weekend excursions, were they usually overnight or was it just one day?

HFG         One day usually.

IO           You left early in the morning and came back late at night?

HFG         That's right.

IO           Did you take gasoline along with you or were you able to buy gasoline on the way?

HFG Well, I don't remember having to buy much gasoline because you didn't take that long of a trip and you didn't go that fast like you do today.

HVG How far did you get on a gallon of gas?

HFG Huh?

HVG I said how far did you get on a gallon of gas?

HFG Well, it was pretty good unless your vacuum tank went haywire like it did one time we ran out of gas \_\_\_\_\_, it took the whole tank to go over to Salinas.

HVG (Comment inaudible.)

HFG Well it seemed like you never looked, when we went the first time in 1915 and it took us three days, and the only gasoline was the dip and maybe sometimes we had to take a dip slip, would be here a miner with a 50 gallon drum out there and you'd holler at him and he had a sprinkling can without the sprinkling knob on it and \_\_\_\_\_ much gas and I don't remember of ever having to buy much gas on the road. Do you?

HVG No, that's why I was asking because....

HFG You always had it at home.

IO So you didn't go more than a tank-full away.

HFG That's right.

HVG That's the answer.

HFG That's right, that's a good answer.

IO And a half a tank out and half a tank back.

HFG Even when we went back over to Nevada. They had these what they call a Roadhouse and my father knew all those people being in the bottling works. I can't remember that they had \_\_\_\_\_ a drum or else afterwards a gas jar up there, you know.

IO But there were like regular service stations, so to speak, but the business was selling gasoline to travelers.

HFG Yeah and it was connected with a store or a restaurant or a garage. Most of them were with a garage and the guard

just had these on three wheels and they held about a hundred gallons, I guess.

IO        Also occasionally you might find some farmer or a miner or somebody who had some fuel that he was willing to sell you or give you?

HFG       No, he'd sell it, it would be the price he sold it.

IO        Okay, that seems logical to me. When you were courting Hazel, did you ever just go to her house and sit and look at each other?

HFG       Play cards.

HVG       We played cards, yeah.

IO        You didn't always go out somewhere. She sometimes came to your house and sometimes you went to her house?

HFG       No, I mostly went to her house, only on weekends my folks always had parties.

HVG       Yeah, we went up there and sometimes he'd come down and we'd play Sister(?).

HFG And then we'd play baseball with boys and girls.

IO The regular baseball where you hit the ball and run around the bases?

HFG Yeah, once in a while it'd go through a windshield (laughter). Do you remember? (Laughter again)

IO Anything else that you can remember that you did for courting or entertainment? Hazel mentioned earlier that sometimes she made ice cream by cranking or salt.

HVG Oh, that was a ritual. Every Fourth of July or when was it. At home anyway my sister and I, one sat on it or \_\_\_\_\_ and the other one cranked.

IO You and Henry are heavily involved now with the Fair program around the state or at least in San Jose.

HFG Yeah.

IO Was there such a thing as a Fair back at this time?

HFG Sure, there was a Fair, but I have a newspaper when this Fair was celebrating about the 20th year and there had been a Fair for 15 years before that like out at Shipton

Park. Have you heard that?

IO No.

HFG That is out on Monterey Road where the quarry is right beyond the cemetery. Then there was Hanchett Park out in the Hanchett district, which is by \_\_\_\_\_ Road out west of First Street, and then Luna Park, which was down on 13th Street, and then -- but that was afterwards, the one at McKnowne(?), that little rodeo. No, I was young then yet and I don't know the year you went with me.

HVG I don't remember. I heard you speak of it though.

HFG And then we'd go to Alum Rock Park on....

HVG Picnicking.

HFG Picnics.

IO But these parks that you were talking about, these weren't really fairs were they where they have cattle?

HFG That's where they held the fair.

IO So then they would hold the fair in more than one place?

HFG In different places.

IO Each place would have a fair each year?

HFG No no, maybe one would have it for a few years or a span of years and then another one would have it but I don't remember of two of 'em ever having it in the same year. It was called The San Jose Fair but it was held at these different places that I named.

IO Okay, so it was a San Jose Fair in contrast to a Santa Clara County Fair like the fairgrounds is today?

HFG Yeah, it would be more like a community fair but it would be similar to the Santa Clara County Fair. Lot of times you'd have a circus with it and sometimes just the circus would come through too. Well it's not about the extent of the Fair, they weren't too big.

HVG But they did have different school districts for entertainment.

IO So when did the, what I know as the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, when did that come into existence?

HFG Oh, that came in through the Supervisors and the packing

houses and the banks and they started it in 1939 to get things together but they did not have a fair until 1941 and then the war broke out and then our next fair was 1946 and that's when I got messed into it. I went to the fair in 1941 but I was just an onlooker or visitor and I still have the Constitution of the United States that they gave to you when you walked in the gate.

IO            You didn't exhibit anything or enter anything in any kind of a contest?

HFG           In 1941 no.

IO            And you didn't enter any pies or cookies or....?

HVG           No no.

HFG           But you went to it, didn't you?

HVG           I know I went to the fairgrounds.

HFG           All there was -- I don't know if there was any gate or not (chuckling) -- and dirt.

HVG           No, I didn't go until say 19....



HFG Well, how many tents was there?

IO How many what?

HFG Tents.

IO Tents, okay.

HVG Well, what started me was the 4H. Marilyn was....

HFG Yeah, well I mean '41, there were only one or two tents and then in 1946 -- see the grandstand wasn't built until 1950 and the Palo Alto voted it down and that's why we never had any racing. All the parimutuel and all the things were there at the grandstand, the good grandstand, but now....

IO Well what did Palo Alto have to do with this?

HFG The ladies didn't want to have the horse racing down here because they had Tanforan and they had Menlo Park and they didn't want no competition with those God-darn farmers down there in Santa Clara County to have horse racing. (IO laughing) When I was on the board, it was put up to a vote three times and we all voted for it and then old Pettis says, "Well you better put it to the vote

of the public", and Palo Alto voted it down.

IO Well, Palo Alto is one community out of many.

HFG Yeah, you bet. They had power with Stanford and all that crap up there.

IO Didn't the cities down here vote for it?

HFG Was Morgan Hill in there?

HVG I don't know.

HFG There was no Morgan Hill.

HVG They must have had the power that they made too much of a fuss about it.

HFG They had the power.

IO Political graft shut you down.

HVG And once they got 4H started in there, then that helped when we got the agricultural.

HFG Well really what started the agricultural part was when

the Extension Service moved in. Before that we had an Agricultural Commissioner, Coty.

HVG Oh yes, and then with the Extension Service then that's when that started.

HFG And when the Extension Service came in with Barney and all of the ones from Berkeley, you know....

IO Well what's an Extension Service? That doesn't mean anything to me.

HVG Agricultural Extension Service, \_\_\_\_\_ at the University of California, that's not right either is it?

HFG Even when Marvin was with the Extension Service, he was with Berkeley and Davis. In other words, it should be the Extension; it was mostly all in agriculture, fruits and vintage and flowers, mushrooms, everything that's got to do with agriculture. The Extension means, I guess, it's from the affiliation with Berkeley and Davis, right?

HVG Yeah, they're both University of California.

HFG You never heard of the Extension?

HVG        4H started with it.    Future Farmers comes from the schools doesn't it?    The 4H came through the Extension Service.

HFG        That's right.

HVG        About 1946 or so Marilyn was trying \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the 4H.

HFG        That's when we had our first fair out there, '41.

IO         Well what did the Extension Service -- was this just sort of like an organization or a club?    Did they do something for you as a farmer?

HFG        That's right.

IO         What did they do for you?

HFG        Well, when I built the dam here they just    (laughter)  
Everything was always short of water so we didn't have the canal coming over, which they took away from us now and by God I'm gonna get it back.    And so through the -- well there was two different outfits I had to talk to, the one was we got money back for a pay-in; in other words, they did the surveying and paid a sum of money for

puttin' in a dam and that came through two organizations, Extension Service and then -- we got maps there, we can show you where what's good ground and what's not so good and....

IO Did this Extension Service give you money to build this dam? Is that what you're saying?

HFG Yeah, money to build the dam. And they surveyed it and said how it should be built, you know. And then they ran the 4H and they started the Cattlemen's Association and....

HVG And all the farming.

HFG And all the farming. Our commissioner got mad, Ted Monise got mad, and then the Extension Service came in. Remember? He said, "What they got to do with it."

HVG But as Davis got bigger and it spread out.

HFG But they were under the United States of America, I mean they were a federal organization, the Extension Service was. Well, they're still in now but like everything else they're taking a lot of things away from 'em. And our son went through Davis and then became a farm advisor,

and the farm advisors were run by the Extension Service of Berkeley and Davis.

HVG And they still would go to the farmers \_\_\_\_\_ over there in the Valley.

HFG Sure, they still have it.

HVG Fruit and grapes and all that was a lot of Extension.

IO Like they advise the farmer what crop would be the best crop for him to raise?

HFG That's right on that land.

IO How to rotate his crops or something?

HFG That's right and how much fertilizer to use.

HVG Pruning and all that.

HFG And pruning, yeah, show you how to prune in the new methods and anything to do with agriculture.

IO This came out of the University of California through the Extension Service, okay. I want to get back to this dam,

okay? Does it still exist?

HFG No.

HVG Not as a dam, no. You look out that window, you can see where it has been, was.

HFG No, the dam part is still there but they filled it in on the map, and that came through the other \_\_\_\_\_ too. What was the name of that other thing that Mitchell ran?

IO So when did you build this thing?

HFG 1947.

IO Oh, this was relatively recent.

HFG Oh yeah.

HVG If you look out that window right there, I don't know if you....

IO No, I wasn't. What did you build the dam out of? Was it earth?

HFG Earth.

IO           You just bulldozed.

HFG           Hired a company that did the dam-building.

IO           Was this you personally? Or was this a group?

HFG           No, her father, after I got the dam built and there was only -- let's see, it cost \$1200 and it cost me \$600, they paid the \$600 and then her father says, "Well, you're gonna use the water on my land so I'll give you \$300", and so actually the dam cost me \$300 and today that dam would cost you a million bucks (chuckle), wouldn't it?

IO           What water flow did you dam up?

HFG           It was the acreage of, I don't recall.

IO           Was it like Coyote Creek or....?

HFG           The creek right out here.

IO           Does it have a name?

HFG           Yeah.



IO           What's the name?

HFG           It was Dye Creek and now it's Thompson Creek. And so I got into a lot of trouble because I had to go to Sacramento to get a storage permit. You have riparian rights, when a creek goes through your place you have riparian rights to pump that water right out of the creek on your land as long as you don't interfere with somebody down the stream, and when that stream starts to back up or else there's so much flowing that it's gonna go in the ocean then you can pump. And so there was a neighbor down here who caused a lot of disturbance and I called for a meeting from the Water Resources from Sacramento and the gentleman came out and this other gentleman -- there was three parties that he went to, there was Bender, no four, and Mancuso and Master and myself -- and then he had the meetings at the different places.

IO           This was after the dam was built or before the dam was built?

HFG           This was before the dam.

HVG           Must have been before.

HFG           Sure.

IO           And you built the dam before the settlement.

HFG           Yeah, but afterwards he started the monkey business and this fella came out from Sacramento and so he asked me he said, "All you want to know, you want to know when you can pump the water?" And I said, "Yeah, that's all I want to know." And this other fella he had gone out and got a permit on the whole thing but he wanted you to ring him up if you was gonna pump. And sometimes the creek was pretty near overflowing here and the mud and creek, and he rings up and wants me to go out there and pump. Well I couldn't even find the pump. (HVG laughing) And so this fella from Sacramento says, "That's all you wanta know?", and I said, "Yeah." He said, "Where's your last percolation", and I says, "Down in Evergreen by the apartment house." "All right", he says, "That's where it'll be." And this other fella got mad and he said to me he said, "Say, you're pretty raw to get along with", and I says, "Yeah." So he says, "You know what happened to me? I came out here with you people", and he had a room in the De Anza Hotel and so he was gettin' out his adding machine and his typewriter and was settin' it up and this man comes (laughter) and this man comes and his daughter and they talked with this guy until after 12 o'clock. Well you know how he felt? And he said, "By golly you did him \_\_\_\_\_". When we were

out in the meetings out there, all you wanted to know when you could pump, and you didn't want to go to a neighbor and ask him when you could pump. (Laughter) You wanted to know from Sacramento." And I says, "Yessir, and that's what I got." And the other fella, then he said afterwards, "Oh, we coulda did that." I said, "We couldn't do it because, God darn it, I ain't gonna worry about it if I'm pumpin' and you come up and tell me I can't pump." And we were good friends afterwards but \_\_\_\_\_.

IO           You said that it's filled in behind the dam now. That's filled in from just natural causes or did somebody....?

HFG          They filled it in.

IO           They is who?

HFG          The Villages, The Villages filled it in. Wait a minute, you're gonna get technical again. The Villages did not fill it in, it was the contractor who came in to build this building on this end. He had to buy that land, he was gonna build 50 houses, he buys 50 pieces of land to get those 50 houses on, so he had to fill that in. You get me? Or is it clear as mud?

IO           Well, it sounds to me like you're saying that where that dam is now it belongs to The Villages and not you. Is that right?

HFG          That's right.

IO           Okay. It's not your dam anymore.

HFG          No.

HVG          There's no hole there anymore.

HFG          No.

IO           But he filled it in just to get some property to build houses on.

HFG          Or to get rid of dirt that he was movin' from a place where he was gonna build.

IO           Okay. I've gotta get up and look now, I'm confused again.

HVG          Yeah, you can see the flattened place there. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. You hardly know it anymore,  
there's a little kind of a slump.

HFG        Yeah, you gotta look a little south of the barn.

HVG        South of the barn, yeah. Just south of that....

HFG        See where....

IO         Well, the thing that's confusing me now is, earlier today  
you told me the general land went up to the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

HFG        That's right.

IO         I take it that the dam is this side of those poles.

HFG        Yeah, right here with this other pole. You see this  
other pole?

IO         Yeah.

HFG        And then the land is a little lower? Right there, that's  
where the dam was.

IO         Oh yes, but that's not your land anymore.

HFG        Yeah, everything on this side of that pole, sure. The  
dam was on the other side of the pole.

IO           That pole right out there is sort of the dividing line.

HFG           Yeah, well there's two poles. You see those two poles?  
And this other pole is still....

IO           Oh, is that the two poles \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG           Yeah, well you see where that flat is on this side?  
Through the almond trees?

IO           (First part of comment inaudible. IO apparently standing  
at the window with his back to recorder.) That pole over  
there is not your land.

HFG           No, ours is where that fence is, about three feet on this  
side of the pole, that's our fence line.

IO           We're talking about the fence line going along the top of  
the \_\_\_\_\_?

HFG           Yeah, it starts on this side of the old creek. See where  
that green is? Well that's where it goes right along  
that green. They haven't did anything there and that  
belongs to the....

IO           All that bank that I can see along there?

HFG           That is ours.

IO            That's yours.

HFG           But not beyond the bank.

IO            The dam was on the other side of that bank.

HFG           Yeah, it was. There's no more dam there.

IO            (Coughing) We're almost out of tape again.

HFG           You almost through?

IO            Yeah, I think we're gonna wind this up here. Anything that you want to add to this? We've got about maybe five more minutes here.

HFG           You better have it. You got more to say than I have.

HVG           I don't know.

IO            Did you have any brothers or sisters?

HVG           Just one sister.

IO           This is the one who you know the \_\_\_\_\_  
somewhere, a couple of them that well.

HVG          Been married \_\_\_\_\_, he has passed away.

HFG          \_\_\_\_\_ married two girls.

HVG          Two sisters, two brothers married two sisters.

IO           Well, I guess I don't have any more questions to ask.  
I've run out of questions.

HFG          You did?

IO           Yes, you keep triggering. The only thing that I can  
think of here, I have down here "elevators" and that's not  
really pertinent to the early life of San Jose but not  
everybody has an elevator in their house like you do.

HFG          Well I didn't even know of a forklift elevator. It's  
always \_\_\_\_\_ and I haven't found a person yet who  
has.

IO           If you can give us a few words about this innovation that  
you have in your house, about the electric forklift  
Elevator, I think that would be interesting.



HVG Well, we took down the old steps and what would you say?  
It was the work of puttin' legs up and down the steps how  
many times a day.

HFG Yeah.

HVG And tryin' to talk about it now. Well, I don't know, all  
of a sudden we heard probably....

HFG The grandchildren.

HVG For the grandchildren, a forklift elevator. But then  
they said that would be better than a ramp 'cause the  
ramp was apt to take up too much footage one way  
(chuckling) however you figure it out.

HFG You did not see the forklift, did you?

IO Yes I did.

HFG Oh, I thought....

IO Yeah, Betty and I were down here one time before you had  
it installed. You had it out in the barn.

HFG Oh, but I mean you haven't seen it since it's been

installed.

IO           No, I've just ridden in it.   Where did you get the forklift from?

HFG          Oh, my grandson Lauren...

HVG          (Comment inaudible.)

HFG          Well, it's a man who must work with forklifts.

HVG          Oh oh.

HFG          And what happened was, how they got in with the forklift was our son at San Jose Steel had one built on a two-story building or a three-story building in San Joaquin Valley and our son works for the....

HVG          Grandson.

HFG          Grandson works for the steel company and then he said, "How about an elevator." And Lauren is with the Diaz Electric Company and so they go out to find an elevator and when they find this elevator then he wants \$200 deposit and so they told me, "You have to have \$600" 'cause he wants \$800 and it's gotta be cash and you'd get

no receipt. I don't think it's hot or anything because it has all the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and so far we haven't had any trouble and it cost us \$800 for the elevator and then the rest of it we paid as we went along, the cement....

IO But \$800 for the forklift?

HFG For the forklift but the elevator was all made and I paid for the parts and what did it come to? Just below less than \$5,000 and very little labor, about \$1,600 for the labor.

IO Well, quite an innovation.

HFG Yeah.

IO The concept of having two doors. Did you work out all the mechanisms? Or your grandson?

HFG No no, a fellow by the name of Lan Diaz worked out all the -- see there's two jennies that run the doors. You know, you've heard of these jennies that close the doors of your garages, well there's one for the doors on this side and one for the doors on the other side. Well, I'll show it to you, the mechanism and his valves.

IO Well, it's not really necessary but....

HFG Yeah, all I gotta do is open the door.

IO Okay. I think we're through.

HFG All right.

IO Thank you very much for your patience.

HFG Well how about thanking you.

HVG Well thank you for your patience.

HFG Well you know you're gettin' me started on what this Pat Loomis and everybody wants me to do.

End of Side 2, Tape 3.